

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Oct 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #4: Jesus Cleans House

What activity in church would make you disrupt the service?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: Passover was one of annual feasts that all Jewish men were required to celebrate in Jerusalem. Ex 12:25. Cattle, sheep and doves were required sacrifices. All animals had to be without blemish (Lev 1:3), so priest-certified animals were sold at a premium. Jews traveling a long way had to be able to buy the sacrificial animals with temple currency. Conversion from secular money to temple money normally cost 12%. Annas charged each money changer a franchise fee. By selling in the outer courts, they prevented the Gentiles from praying since Gentiles could not enter the inner court. They should not have been working in the temple itself. By publicly claiming that the temple (in the nation's capital) is "My Father's house" Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. This was a chance for the Jews to accept (or reject) their Messiah.

Read John 2:12-17

1. If this was the first time you met Jesus, what would you think of him if you were a money changer? A priest? A pilgrim, frustrated at the financial system that made worshipping a challenge?
2. Why do most people leave this side of Jesus's character out?
3. Why do you think the temple authorities looked the other way requiring Jesus to clean house?
4. Why isn't Jesus's anger sinful? Eph 4:26, Ps 4:4-5
5. What lesson can we learn about Jesus' zeal for God's house?
6. How do we sometimes today turn the church into a market?

Read John 2:18-25

7. Why was it so shocking that Jesus promised to destroy the temple?
8. How is Jesus a better "temple" for God than the physical one in Jerusalem?
9. What is the significance of raising the destroyed temple in three days?
10. How was Jesus able to know "what was in a man"? vs. 25 1 Ki 8:39

APPLICATION

How could you be prepared to "turn over the tables" when the proper time comes?

"Imagine you were a money changer in the temple. How quick we are to question the motives of others, yet we are so slow to question our own! When others harm us, we may assume the worst of intentions. When we are guilty we often excuse our offences, concluding that others are too sensitive. Regardless of how we monitor our motives, God weighs them in His scales of righteousness. It is futile to try to deceive God with our pious justifications, for He sees our hearts.

*All a man's ways seems innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. - Proverbs 16:2
Experiencing God Day by Day Devotional & Journal Henry Blackaby, June 5th*

This is not the 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild' of the children's prayer; this Jesus is very much a man's man, for He single-handedly confronted a whole band of men and forcibly separated them from their wealth, surely the most difficult and courageous of things to do. True, He is gentle to those who seek Him, but also a man who attracted robust fishermen to His company, men who could and would walk thirty-five miles day after day without demur.¹

¹ Mills, M. S. (1999). *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record* (Jn 2:13-22). Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries.