

Early Judean Ministry

Temple Cleansing Jesus' First Passover

April 14, 26 A.D.

John 2:13-22

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Text:

John 2:13-22,

13. When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and other sitting at tables exchanging money.

15. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

16. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”

17. His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

18. Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

19. Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

20. The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”

21. But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said.

22. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Commentary:

John 2:13, When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

I. Jesus went to Jerusalem to keep the Passover.

II. This cleansing of the temple is dated at Passover, the first Passover of Jesus' public ministry.

III. Jesus cleansed the temple a second time during the last week of his earthly life.

A. Matthew 21:12, 13, Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers."

B. Mark 11:15, On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,

C. Luke 19:45, Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling.

John 2:14, In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and other sitting at tables exchanging money.

I. Jesus found merchants (money changers) at the temple selling oxen, sheep, doves.

A. These animals were essential to the worship of those who came to the temple.

B. It was more convenient to purchase animals on site rather than, for example, transporting an ox from Galilee.

C. However, worshipers were required to purchase animals for sacrifice at the temple and were not allowed to bring them from home nor purchase them elsewhere.

- D. No coins bearing Caesar's image were acceptable in purchasing animals at the temple.
- E. The mercenaries "ripped the worshipers off" with inflated prices for animals and for exchanging money. Jesus called them "thieves and robbers."
- F. These money changers had moved into the temple court itself encroaching more and more into the sacred precincts.
- G. What about some modern radio and television evangelists? Are some of them present day mercenaries, money changers?
- H. Where did the profits go?

John 2:15, So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

I. Jesus made a scourge/whip of cords/ropes and...

- A. drove out of the temple the sheep and oxen.
- B. poured out the changers' money. Jesus was totally disinterested in the money. He didn't take a cent of it. Wonder what the crowds in the temple did when money was spilled all over the floor?
- C. turned over the tables of the money changers.

II. Jesus used force to drive the money changers out of the temple.

- A. Nothing is said here of Jesus' striking any of the money changers with his whip.

B. In the second temple cleansing it is said that Jesus drove out the money changers.

III. Undoubtedly the Sadducees did not forget this as they were the primary benefactors of this commercialism.

John 2:16, To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”

I. Jesus told the money changers to gather up their belongings and to leave the temple.

A. God’s house was not to be made a commercial store operated for personal profit.

B. Obviously these people did not cease and desist.

C. Personal profit was more important to them than obeying the commands of God’s son.

II. “My Father’s house” was Jesus’ way of saying that he was the divine Son of God, the Messiah.

A. Malachi 3:1, 2, “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

John 2:17, His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

I. The disciples were students of scripture and recalled the Old Testament verse that said, “Zeal for thy house shall eat me up.”

A. Psalm 69:9, zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

B. The disciples saw in this cleansing of the temple the application of this verse.

C. Zeal for the temple consumed Jesus in that it set in motion hatreds that led to his crucifixion.

II. The temple was to be a house of prayer for all people, both Jews and Gentiles, not a place for greedy merchandising.

A. Mark 11:17, And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

B. Isaiah 56:7, these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

John 2:18, Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

I. The Jews, having seen this cleansing of the Temple sign, were not satisfied.

A. They wanted another sign proving that Jesus had authority to cleanse the temple.

B. A thousand signs would have made no difference because they had a vested interest in the profits being made.

John 2:19, Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

I. Jesus was here speaking of his crucifixion and resurrection.

II. Jesus knew that this act would set the stage for his death and he spoke of that death here.

John 2:20, The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”

I. The Jews misunderstood this statement made by Jesus.

A. They incorrectly applied his words to the literal destruction and rebuilding of the temple in three days.

B. They thought such a rebuilding was preposterous as the temple had been under construction for forty-six years.

C. The temple renovation began in 20-19 B.C. Adding 46 years to that date would place this temple cleansing in 27-28 A.D. early in the ministry of Christ.

D. The second cleansing was within the last week of Christ’s life prior to the crucifixion.

E. Christ’s enemies during his trial brought these words before the court in an attempt to prove Jesus was a blasphemer.

John 21, 22, But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

I. The temple of which Jesus spoke was his body, destroyed and raised within three days.

II. When Jesus was resurrected the disciples remembered these prophetic words.

III. This caused the disciples to believe and understand the meaning of these words of the Lord.

IV. The disciples continued to grow in their understanding of the teachings of Christ.

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Questions

1. Jesus went up to _____ when it was almost time for the _____.

2. Jesus cleansed the temple _____ times, both during the _____ season.

3. The _____ cleansing was at the first _____ of Jesus' public ministry while the _____ cleansing was at the last _____ of his earthly life.

4. In the temple court Jesus found men _____ and _____ and others sitting at _____.

5. _____ were required to _____ at the temple for _____ and were not permitted to bring them from _____ or to purchase them _____.

6. No coins bearing _____'s _____ were acceptable for purchasing _____ at the temple. _____ were charged for the animals and a fee was charged for _____. Jesus called them "_____ and robbers."

7. Jesus made _____ out of _____, and _____ all from the _____, both _____ and _____; he scattered the _____ of the _____ and their _____.

8. Jesus said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my _____ into a _____!"

9. The Jews demanded a _____ to prove to them that he had _____ to cleanse the temple.

10. The sign Jesus gave them was, "_____ this _____, and I will _____ it again in _____ days."

11. The Jews said, "It had taken _____ - _____ years to build the _____, and you are going to _____ it in _____?"

12. The temple renovation began in _____ - _____ B.C. Adding _____ - _____ years to this date would place this temple cleansing in _____ - _____ A.D.

13. Jesus was not speaking of the literal temple, but rather the _____ of his body which would be destroyed by the Jews and raised the _____ day.

14. The disciples remembered this statement following Jesus' _____. This caused the disciples to believe the _____ and the _____ that Jesus had _____.

15. Do we ever turn the church building into a market? If so, when and how? _____

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:
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