

“I Will Raise” - John 2:11-25

Ask - “Have you ever been kicked out of a place for doing something wrong?”

Background - The gospel of John doesn't elaborate on Jesus' birth or childhood. Instead, it moves right into His baptism and earthly ministry. In today's lesson we will read about one of the Lord's earliest recorded acts at the temple in Jerusalem.

“Cleansing the Temple” - John 2:11-17

(v11-12) What was the first public miracle of Jesus' ministry (read v1-10)? Where did it take place? What did Jesus do afterwards and who did he stay with?

(v13-16) Where did Jesus go after spending time in Capernaum? What was the occasion? What did He find when He arrived? What did He do and say about it?

(v17) What did Jesus' behavior remind His disciples of (Psalm 69:9)? Why does Jesus care so deeply about what goes on in God's house? Discuss.

AFTER THE MIRACLE AT CANA, JESUS WENT TO JERUSALEM ON PASSOVER AND CLEANSED THE TEMPLE. HIS DISCIPLES WERE STRUCK BY JESUS' PASSION FOR THE LORD'S HOUSE.

“Raising the Temple” - John 2:18-22

(v18) What did the Jews who confronted Jesus for cleansing the temple want to see and know? Why were they concerned about authority?

(v19-21) What was Jesus' response to them? Why did they doubt Jesus' claim about restoring the temple? What temple was Jesus actually referring to?

(v22) When and how was this sign of Jesus' authority ultimately fulfilled? Did these Jews recognize it? Who did recognize it and what was their response? Do you recognize it today?

THE JEWS CONFRONTED JESUS AND ASKED HIM BY WHAT AUTHORITY HAD HE CLEANSED THE TEMPLE. JESUS PROPHESED OF HIS COMING RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD AS PROOF THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST.

“Reception at the Temple” - John 2:23-25

(v23) How was Jesus received by many of the people who were at the temple for Passover? On what basis did they believe in His name?

(v24) Did Jesus fully embrace the sincerity of their belief? Did He entrust Himself

to them?

(v25) Why was Jesus leery of their belief? What is troubling about the heart of man? How does Jesus know our hearts and what are the implications of this? Discuss.

JESUS WAS EMBRACED BY MANY PEOPLE AT THE TEMPLE, BUT THEIR FAITH WAS SHALLOW. IT WAS BASED ON JESUS' SIGNS AND MIRACLES, NOT ON HIS PERSON. JESUS KNEW IT WASN'T GENUINE.

Application - The synoptic gospels record the cleansing of the temple at the end of Jesus' ministry, just a few days before His crucifixion. John places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. It is possible that He cleansed the temple twice. Either way, Jesus was and remains zealous for the LORD's house. But the temple is more than just a place where we worship... Jesus spoke of His body as the temple. As Christians, how are our bodies like the temple also (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)?