

The Word of God: Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Reflect

Have you experienced righteous anger?

What do you think angers God?

How do we worship God?

Read Your Bible

Deuteronomy 7:6

John 2:13-22

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Note the religious festival being celebrated in v. 13. What would a person need to worship God during this festival? (hint...Mary had one...the Mary from the nursery rhyme)
2. The price of lambs would be high. Exchanging money in the temple was expensive for the worshipper and profitable for the temple. Why does this anger Jesus?
3. Jesus refers to rebuilding a new temple. What does he mean?
4. The temple was the center of economic, political, and religious life. What do you think people of power thought of Jesus' words?
5. Where and how does this story of Jesus convict you? What do you need to change in your life because of Jesus cleansing the temple?
6. What is the good news of this story? How can this story give you hope?
7. How much of a ruckus are you willing to make to share the Good News?

Conclusion

The temple is the center of economic, political, and social life. Jesus was willing to confront the abuses of the temple so that we might have a better picture of God. The money used in the temple had to be free of graven images, and so coins would need to be exchanged, for a fee of course. Most would need to buy their animals here for sacrifice and the cost would be high. These economic abuses kept many people away from the temple. And that was not God's intent. This angered Jesus and he disturbed the status quo to say the least. But his temple reforms were not completed here. Through him, he would be the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. It would happen on the cross. In him we have access to God, and there is no need for a temple. Since Jesus has done this for all, how can we make sure that we do not hinder people from experiencing the love of God?

Prayer

Father, thank you for the grace you pour out to us through Jesus. Thank you, that in him we have a right relationship with you. Lord, not only give us vision to see your love given to us, but also give us vision to see where we need to make certain that we hinder no one from experiencing your love. Lord when we become a stumbling block correct us, and keep us reaching out to all people of every tribe and nation. In Jesus' name. Amen