

# Jesus and the Temple

## Jesus Clears the Temple

“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves He said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

- John 2:13-17

There are three different Passovers mentioned in the Gospel of John and these help us understand the length of Jesus’ ministry.

“The Jewish Passover Feast was near.”

- John 6:4

“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover.”

- John 11:55

A Temple cleansing also happened at the end of Jesus’ ministry. Did He do this twice?

The Temple was being used as a marketplace.

- Sacrificial animals were being sold at unfair prices.
- Temple tax coins were being exchanged for inflated fees.



Jesus was enraged at this misuse of His Father’s house and drives them all from the temple area.

Jesus’ actions remind the disciples of a Scripture passage.

“For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face. <sup>8</sup> I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother’s sons; <sup>9</sup> for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.”

- Psalm 69:7-9

Jesus’ actions may have fulfilled other Scriptures.

“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.”

- Malachi 3:1

## Jesus Gives Prophecy Concerning His “Temple”

“Then the Jews demanded of Him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple He had spoken of was His body. <sup>22</sup> 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.”

- John 2:18-22

The Jews apparently believed that this event was foretold in Scriptures and so asked Jesus for proof that He was the One.

Jesus told them that they would have their sign! He would raise the “temple” in three days.

“He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- Matthew 12:39-40

As often happened, the hearers misunderstood what Jesus was saying. (John 3:3; 4:14; 6:34; 6:54; 7:33; 8:51; etc.)

Even the disciples misunderstood and only after His resurrection did this make sense to them.

## Jesus Can See the Temple of Your Heart

“Now while He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His name. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust Himself to them, for He knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for He knew what was in each person.”

- John 2:23-25

Jesus did miraculous signs while He was in Jerusalem.

Many people believed only because of the signs!

“Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

- John 4:48

Believing is not enough! We must receive Him as the One sent from God and as the payment for our sin.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...”

- John 1:12

“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.”

- James 2:19

The Bible says that since the death and resurrection of Jesus, all of His followers are God’s temple.

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

- 1 Corinthians 3:16,17



## Consider With Me...

1. Jesus became angry when His Father was not honoured. What makes you truly angry?
2. You may believe, but does your lifestyle indicate that you are wholly committed to Jesus Christ?

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