

John 2vs13-25

Clearing out the old temple...
...and announcing the new!

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Out with the old...

John 2 vs 13-25

Clearing out the rubbish...

We start with the first four verses:

JOHN 2 vs 13-17: *The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."*

Jesus here links himself to David - David was appointed by Samuel through being anointed with oil.

The word 'to anoint' or 'Anointed One' is linked to the Hebrew word 'Messiah', and the Greek word 'Christ'.

Hence: MESSIAH = CHRIST = ANOINTED KING

John 2 v 17: ***His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."***

...is a direct reference to Psalm 69 v 9:

For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

In Psalm 69 King David expresses how he was desperately concerned for God's glory ...and how he was not put off by those who opposed him.

Jesus demonstrates the same passion for the temple as David even though it brings such reproach upon Him. But surely...

- This is exactly what you would expect 'the owner' of the temple to show and do... and
- The Messiah immediately shows the hypocrisy of man's so called religious behaviour.

As it is Passover the Temple would have been crammed as Jesus entered.

...Yet, in authority, Jesus single-handedly clears it!

Every true Israelite had a duty to go to the temple to celebrate this festival of remembrance to the saving of God's people from slavery. So what Jesus does is therefore:

- A HIGHLY PUBLIC – and HIGHLY THREATENING ACT
- The GOD of judgment SPEAKING – how controversial can you get?!

Who is this Man..?

Now we have three pictures of 'Jesus the King':

- John 1 vs 1-11 as '**The Word**' – the Creator God... and
- John 2 vs 1-12 as the Messiah King... who will bring in a new creation... and
- John 2 vs 13-17 Jesus - the Judging King in his house - the Owner of the Temple.

Does this change your picture of Jesus at all?

- Why is this so challenging?

Clearly he is NOT just the '*gentle Jesus, meek and mild*' of our memory of perhaps Primary School Assemblies!

Nor is he the hippy-like picture of '*love and peace*'!

Rather... JESUS - THE JUDGE - SEEKS PURE WORSHIP!

New orders...

JOHN 2 vs 18-22: *So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

Why do you think they reply to Jesus as they do in v 18?

v 18 ***So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"***

- In other words – "*Who the heck do you think you are?!*"

Jesus' reply in v 19 takes some unpacking:

v 19 ***Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."***

The Temple was the place:

- where God dwelt among his people
- where God's people were supposed to be taught about God
- where God's people drew near to the holy of holies – the place where God was supposed to dwell on earth

The sacrificial system in the Temple had been provided by God to enable God, in all his purity, to dwell among his sinful people.

The Jews simply can't understand it when Jesus says: ***"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."***

Hence v 20:

v 20 ***The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"***

We can see the Jews think 'building' = built by man... a structure that had taken 46 years to construct.

However, when Jesus says in vs 20 ***"I will raise it up"*** ... he's referring to his own body.

After all he is everything the Temple pointed towards:

- God's presence
- God dwelling with his people
- God himself

HE is God's temple on earth... not some building.

THE proof that Jesus has authority to do what he is doing lies completely in his death and resurrection.

- No physical resurrection = no authority!

True faith

v 22 explains how genuine faith comes about:

v 22: When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

- It comes through Jesus' works – his death and resurrection
- It comes through God's word – the Scriptures
- It comes through Jesus' words

This is what Jesus is looking for in those who follow him. We see it modelled in Chapter 4, not by the Jews but the people they despised, called the Samaritans:

JOHN 4 vs 41-42: And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world."

Summary so far of Chapter 2...

What have these 2 stories of the wedding and the Temple revealed to us?

- Jesus acts always to reveal his glory (never mind what man thinks!)
- So that we might believe:
 - That Jesus is the King of his glorious new creation...
 - where there will be no more death, suffering or starvation
 - That Jesus is Lord and Judge of us all

Superficial loyalties?

JOHN 2 vs 23-25: Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

v 23 ***Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.***

So... they ***believed in his name***

- However, why did they do so?
 - Because they liked the signs and wonders!
 - Isn't that Paul Daniel's or David Blaine's or David Copperfield's territory?!

vs 24-25: *But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*

If you were a self-promoting egotist seeking power, surely you would have given yourself over to those who would make you King... yet Jesus - the Creator God of Chapter 1 – does the exact opposite!

What do you think of Jesus' reaction to these '***many***' who believed?

- His reaction could be viewed as almost outrageous!
- He clearly thinks that their belief is inadequate.

What comes next...

Well, sadly the chapter breaks (man's doing) aren't great.

Next, linked to this temple incident, we are told of a really 'big cheese' Jewish leader - the most significant Jew of his day - coming to see Jesus.

John ch 3 v 1 starts: ***Now there was a man...***

- This links very tightly with John 2 v 25: ***...needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.***

And when does this "big cheese" Jewish leader come to see Jesus?

- In secret...
- And at night!

Here is the whole passage we have been studying:

John 2 vs 13-25

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

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