

## John 2:13-25

*13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. (ESV)*

13 UP - from Galilee 700ft below sea level down to Jericho 1350ft below sea level up to Jerusalem 2500 ft elevation, 3850ft ascent. Jesus' family went to the yearly feasts, so Jesus was familiar with what was taking place and how it had changed.

Some say John was incorrectly remembering when this took place as the other Gospel writers put this at the last visit to the temple. My theory is that John is including what they didn't. If He cleaned it up on the first visit, it may have stayed in effect until His third visit of His ministry when the leadership resolved to stop Him (Matthew 21:12-13). That may have been the main catalyst to have Him executed. - the love of Mammon.

*14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.*

14 During Jesus' youth (6 A.D. – 15 A.D.), Annas had become the High Priest. He instituted a system for the selling of sacrificial animals and exchanging money in the outer court of the temple so he could control it. Previously it was done outside the temple. It was a very lucrative business and made his family very powerful. Jesus must have witnessed the changes in the temple after Annas became High Priest. Isaiah 56:6,7. At that time Annas' son-in-law was high priest.

*15 And 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. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."*

15,16 The place of prayer for the nations had become a den of thieves. A preapproved lamb could cost seven times the normal cost. A coin exchange for the tetradrachma tax could make a day's wages for the exchangers. Of course, the priests got their cut from all of this business and lived in opulent dwellings close to the temple some of which have recently been excavated.

Jesus cleared single handedly cleared out the dozens of merchant and their animals. I imagine that! The people must have been cheering for Him, as the temple guards did nothing. Enough of this abuse sanctioned by the priests! Micah 3:11; Malachi 3:1; Zechariah 14:21.

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

17 What did those new disciples think? Psalm 69:9 - that's what! "Me" is David. The second David is the Messiah (Matthew 24:2). Jesus is showing how He feels about what the temple represents, the living stones (1 Peter 2:4,5). How He desires us to be holy in our contact with the world around us. Our outer court is our body. Our inner court

is our soul. The holy of holies is our spirit. Is our outer court all about making money at others expense?

*18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

18,19 Why would one need to give a sign to do what is right? They wanted a sign like Moses gave to the people to show His God appointed calling. Jesus is the new temple, the house of God (Colossians 1:19). The resurrection is the ultimate sign (Matthew 12:38-40).

*20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 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.*

20-22 Herod began the remodel and expansion of the temple in 20B.C. and it continued for 46 years. THE Scripture - singular also in John 20:9. Probably referring to Psalm 16:10.

*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.*

23 To believe his name is to believe He is the salvation of God. Jesus must have been healing people and other miraculous works, along with cleaning out the temple during this first temple visit.

*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.*

24,25 From the Jewish commentary on Exodus-Mekhilta Exodus 15:32. *Among the seven things said to be hidden from man is "what is within another."* Jeremiah 17:10 tells us that it is the LORD that searches the heart and examines the mind. John is declaring that Jesus does what the LORD does and then backs it up with the encounters in the following passages.

Questions:

Why did Jesus clean out the temple?

Why was that necessary?

What does it reveal about the heart of God?

What can we learn about man from the passage?

What is John trying to tell us about God/Jesus in the last verses?

How should this affect our prayers? Our thought life? Our desires?