



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 8

## JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

*God desires people who worship from their hearts.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: JOHN 2:13-17**

God's house is for worship alone. The Passover was at hand, and many Israelites needed to purchase animals for sacrifices. Those with foreign currency needed to change their money. The moneychangers and merchants set up shop right in the temple. The temple was the center of Jewish life. It was the place where God's presence lived among the people. These shopkeepers were more interested in making money than worshipping God. When Jesus arrived at the temple, He became righteously angry and drove the shopkeepers out. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers. Though Jesus was clearing them out, He had respect for their property. The coins could be gathered and a whip of cords would not hurt the sheep and oxen. Jesus didn't smash or open the cages of the pigeons to let them out. He was trying to help them to see that God's house was not a marketplace.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Jesus chased the animal sellers and the moneychangers out of the Temple. Who didn't Jesus chase out of the temple? (Jesus did not chase out those who came to

worship. In John 6:37 Jesus says, “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.” God does not cast out those who come to worship!)

How should this passage affect the way we view church when we gather on Sunday for worship? (We should be careful to come to worship the Lord. Worship includes singing and listening to the preaching, but it also involves service and fellowship. If we are not paying attention to the preaching, or if we are distracted in worship, or if we can't wait until the service is over, we might want to check our hearts.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to place a love for the church in your heart and cause it to grow.



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**TUESDAY**

**THE STORY: JOHN 2:18-22**

The Jews demanded a sign from Jesus for clearing out the temple. Jesus answered them by saying that if they destroyed the temple, He would raise it up in three days. It had taken 46 years to build the temple, and it wasn't yet finished! It wasn't until after the Resurrection that the disciples realized Jesus was talking about the temple of His body.

**TALK ABOUT IT :**

Jesus said that He was God's temple. How is Jesus a temple? (In heaven there will not be a temple building. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. See Revelation 21:22.)

Why did the Jews demand a sign? (People who do not believe by faith demand proof they can see or touch. When the Pharisees demanded a sign in Mark 8:11, Jesus told them that no sign would be given.)

**PRAY:**

Ask Jesus to help you believe. Faith is a gift from God. Pray and ask God to increase your faith in Him.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: MATTHEW 27:39-43**

The disciples didn't know what Jesus was talking about when He told the Jews that He could rebuild the Temple in three days. Jesus was referring to His resurrection. But after Jesus rose from the dead, they remembered (see John 2:22). People hurled insults at Jesus during His crucifixion, mocking what He said about the Temple (see Matthew 27:39, 40).

Jesus' resurrection validates His ministry claims. His resurrection ultimately proves He is Lord over all, including life and death. The Resurrection proves that His sacrificial death on the cross triumphs for us all. (See Romans 6:4 and Romans 8:11.)

**TALK ABOUT IT :**

What temple was Jesus referring to when He said He would rebuild it in three days? (The temple he spoke about was His body, see John 2:21).

Why is the Resurrection important? (The Resurrection shows us that Jesus was God and that He had victory over death. Now we can trust His promise that those who believe and trust in Him will also have eternal life).

**PRAY:**

Have everyone in your family take a turn honoring Christ and exalting Him in a prayer of thanksgiving for raising the temple in three days. Though He was mocked, we have the privilege of praising Him!



**THURSDAY**

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**THE STORY: JOHN 2:23-25**

Jesus could see the motive of their hearts. When Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers out of the temple, He called the temple “my Father’s house.” The Jews demanded a sign of His authority to do this. After cleansing the temple, Jesus remained in Jerusalem for the Passover. In Jerusalem He did perform signs, and many believed in His name, but Jesus did not entrust Himself to them because He knew their hearts. After seeing Jesus minister, they were satisfied and believed on His name - a way of saying they affirmed His character, but there is no evidence that their belief was in Jesus as their Savior.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Can we tell what is in a man’s heart by what He says? (We cannot always tell what is in a man’s heart by what he says. Our words need to be backed up by our actions. It is easy to say you believe something but not live in a way that matches your words.)

Can God tell what is in our hearts? (Yes - God is not fooled by shallow words. God sees our hearts.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would give us a faith that comes from deep within our hearts. Pray that God would help us live on the outside what we believe on the inside.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: PSALM 69:7-13**

The disciples remembered this passage and attributed it to Christ, who cleared the temple of the moneychangers (John 2:17). This psalm describes a righteous servant who suffers insults on account of his love for God. Jesus was rejected and deserted by His closest friends. He was mocked and scorned, disgraced and shamed both before and upon the cross. Though written by David, likely during one of his own struggles, the Psalm points to Christ and the suffering He would endure for us.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does it mean to have zeal for God's house? (Zeal is intense passion for something. Jesus had an intense passion for God's house and didn't want it used as a place of trade.)

Since we do not worship at the temple and don't have animal sacrifices, how does this verse about zeal for God's house apply to our lives? (God dwells in His people now. Believers are God's house, both as individuals and especially when gathered. We should have zeal for the church - the gathering of believers, which makes up God's house today.)

**PRAY:**

Talk about ways your family shows zeal for God's house - the church - and then pray God would help you be faithful to your commitment.