

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

A Cleansing
John 2:12-25
February 6, 2022

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

I. REFINER'S FIRE AND FULLER'S SOAP

- The events recorded by John in chapters 1-2 speak to the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy (Mal. 3:1-6).
- It is the Lord's immutability that offers the people of God hope. His promises are true and everlasting (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17).
- The issue for Jesus was not the selling of sacrificial animals, but the location for the action. The exchanges were taking place in the temple courts, and in the court of the Gentiles specifically (Vs. 16).
- The old order is passing away, Jesus is ushering in a new day. Enacting such change is oftentimes stark and abrupt at the beginning (Matt. 12:1-8; Mark 2:21-22).

II. DESTROY THIS TEMPLE

- The Jews demand a sign from Jesus demonstrating his authority. He offers them the ultimate sign (Vss. 18-19).
- Jesus is the new temple. In the Consummation there will be no need for a physical structure (Rev. 21:22).
- The disciples remembered the Scripture (after Jesus' resurrection) and believed (Ps. 16:10; Isa. 53:11; Matt. 26:2; John 5:39, 14:26; Acts 13:33-35).
- Many others believed as well (Vs. 23).

III. ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD

- "Zealous" = an uncompromising desire to follow and obey.
- Zeal for the things of the Lord consumed Jesus. It was part of his character (Vs. 17; cf. Ps. 69:9).
- Jesus entrusted himself to the Father, not to whimsical human thoughts or attitudes. He knows us far too well for that. We should know better as well (Vss. 24-25; Eph. 4:11-14).

KNOW: The Messiah is God's Son, and he is passionate for his Father's business. We must deal with impurity in our lives, as Jesus dealt with impurity in the Temple.

DO: Develop a zeal and passion for the Lord. Ask God for it!

Suggested Reading:

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer (LifePoint Library #248.4 TOZ)

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #248.4 BRI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 2:12-25

1. What is Jesus up to in this passage?
2. Why doesn't Jesus entrust himself to the Jews of his day?
3. Is it just the Jews of Jesus' day that are hard to trust, or all people everywhere throughout time?
4. How do we respond to people who question Jesus' love and compassion as it relates to this passage?
5. How do we respond to people who tell us that Jesus "was just about love and tenderness?"
6. What "sign" does Jesus offer the Jews? How did he fulfill it? What does that mean to us?
7. What is a practical "take-away" for you from Sunday's teaching?