



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“JOHN 2:13-25” ON MAY 14 + 21, 2023

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

JOHN 2:13-25 John describes how Jesus cleanses the temple at the time of the Passover! This Jesus, this One who stepped down from the heavenly realm to show us what God's love looked like, and this One who willingly offered His own life to become the ultimate sacrificial Lamb – this same Jesus found His Father's house of worship filled with sellers and money-changers who were not only seeking their own gain, but they were standing in the way of worshipers whose desire was to be in God's presence and to bring sacrifices, to worship Him! Filled with righteous anger, He drove out all that were desecrating the atmosphere of worship and standing in the way of access to God.

John wants us to know WHO Jesus is: Jesus is Holy, and Jesus displayed righteous anger at seeing what He did at the temple during the Passover feast!

- Discuss how these two descriptions of Jesus are important to the way this story unfolds in regard to....
  - The fact that this was the time of Passover; why was that important to Jesus?
  - The fact that the temple court was filled with people selling items and changing money – why was that a problem for Jesus?
  - The fact that Jesus showed anger, when His mission was to show God's love – was His anger OK?
- If Jesus were to show up in our church or somewhere in my life today, would He want to use a whip or would He praise God for what He was seeing? Would He find anything standing in the way of people getting to the grace of God?

John wants us to know WHO Jesus is: Jesus is Zealous! He is passionate about people knowing who He is!

- Read Psalm 69:9; John tells us that Jesus' disciples REMEMBERED that this was written. What IS zeal? What did the writer of Psalm 69 have in common with Jesus in this story of clearing the temple?
- What are you zealous about? What consumes you and your conversations? Is it worth giving up your life for? How do you even recognize what consumes you?
- Jesus is passionately pursuing each of us! How does that make you feel?

John wants us to know WHO Jesus is: Jesus is the true temple of God, because God indwelt His body through the Holy Spirit without limit! And because of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, we who have surrendered to Him - WE, TOO, are God's temple – the Holy Spirit has indwelt us, and we have direct access to God!

- The Jews needed a SIGN of Jesus' authority, His credentials for clearing out the temple court, but how did they respond to His answer? How could they have missed who He was? Why should they have recognized Him by this point?
- Discuss what the temple itself meant to the Jewish nation and how that impacts your life when you realize that YOU now ARE the temple of God! Jesus Himself brings us into the presence of God, and we not only have direct access to Him, but we have the Holy Spirit with us forever. How do you respond to being a temple of God? (This can be a broad and deep discussion!)



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

John wants us to know WHO Jesus is and BELIEVE that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Therefore.....

- Do you truly believe what God's Word says about Jesus? About YOU?
- Do you live your life like you believe God's Word is true, or are there areas of weakness? How can you deal with those areas of weakness?
- In verses 17 and 22 of this passage, John tells us that the disciples REMEMBERED....and verse 22 also tells us they then BELIEVED. How well do you KNOW God's Word so that you can remember scriptures to apply to your life's journey?
- What is the value of this remembering? How can remembering be effective for you as you Love God and Love People?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.