

John's Gospel @ CF!
John 2:13-25
Sermon Notes – BK
March 10, 2024

Listen Here



The Gospel of John... CHAPTER 2, CONTINUED...

- We are **cookin'** now!
- Took **8 weeks** for chapter 1, taking **2 weeks** for chapter 2!

LAST WEEK

- Jesus went to a **wedding in Cana** (where Nathaniel was from)
- **Jesus' mother was there**
- **They ran out of wine**
 - o This was a **massive problem** in the culture of that time
 - o Similar in our day **running out of food at a wedding before everyone** was served.
 - o *Even then, it would **not be as big of a deal here as it would be back then.***
- **Mary, mother of Jesus asked Jesus to help**
- **Jesus definitely came through with 120-180 gallons of "good wine"**
- **There is a LOT more to this**
 - o **The woman who gave birth to Jesus**, was **instrumental in the "birthing"** of his ministry
 - o Amazing **imagery of the first wine** representing the **Old** Covenant and the **wine Jesus makes of water** representing the **New** Covenant...
representing the blood of Jesus that would be poured out, for the
 - o **This was the first of seven signs Jesus is recorded doing in the Gospel of John**, as we discussed last week,
 - **7 is significant** - a number signifying **fullness and perfection**, this is **especially true of spiritual perfection.**
 - o **The disciples knew, the servants who served knew, but it was not until some time later that this first sign was known.**
 - o **There is MUCH MORE** – last week's message is on our website if you would like to see it.
 - o **So many layers to this story – SO GOOD!**

John 2:12 tells us,

"12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days."

From there, we read Jesus (and others not mentioned) head to Jerusalem – some 106 miles from there.

- This was **another long walk.**

SIDE NOTE – It is **estimated Jesus walked about 15,000 miles in his lifetime**. That's a lot of miles, especially since His life on this earth ended after 33 years.

SO... Let's move on in the chapter, as we see the beginning of Jesus launching into His public ministry.

We will see that Jesus is not quite so subtle ;-)

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

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." 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.

WOW – quite a different feel from the first part of the chapter, don't you think?

- This is **far from** the *"it is not my time"*
- This has *"prophet with a purpose" all over it.*

Jesus is now "official"

This "Cleansing of the temple" is put this at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry

We see something similar to this in Matthew 21:12-17, Mark 11:15-19 and Luke 19:45-48, where Jesus *"cleanses the temple..."*

But it is in a **different time-frame** - They all put it **after the triumphal entry** which is **the LAST week of Jesus' ministry**... What we know as the *"**Passion week**"* that leads to Jesus' death and **resurrection**.

Is this a contradiction?

No – It is clear that this was a separate occasion.

- In **both cases**, it was during **the time of the Passover**.
 - o **Both had a reason** for it to be at this time.
 - o **Both represented a great work and revealing of Jesus.**
- In **both cases** Jesus drives out the "business" that is happening in the temple.
 - o It could be they did **not have** a "market in the Temple" all the time

- It could be that **this was something they did to accommodate all the people** coming in to observe the Passover in Jerusalem – or other special occasions.
- **Seems like a good service to perform – justified... right?**
- **There are different details in the two “cleansings” so-to-speak:**
 - **The context is different**
 - John - After the **wedding of Cana**,
 - **The other three** after the **Triumphal Entry – (Palm Sunday)**
 - **The message from Jesus is different from the other three (yet same in the Synoptic accounts.)**
 - **The details of how it went down are different**
 - **The response is different**

ALL that to say, there is no contradiction here –

- **These are two different times –**
- **These are two different “Cleansing of the Temple” instances...**

In John 2... the Apostle John is building on something.

As we have seen, John is communicating his Gospel differently than the other three, but builds on His over-arching narrative.

In the first part of the chapter, Jesus was in Cana.

- **Here he turned water to wine**
 - Jesus had **6 stone purification jars** filled to the brim with water
 - **Jesus transformed that water into wine**
 - **Spiritual Punchline: Jesus’ blood (the new wine) purifies us from our sin**
 - **More than enough**
 - **Something ONLY Jesus can do!**

John takes us next to Jerusalem – at the time of Passover.

Jesus sees the “market” in the Temple with the Money Changers...

- **Something He has likely seen before,**
- **Now it was time to DO something about it.**

It was time...

NOW – Jesus PURIFIES the Temple

An important part of Passover was the process of purification through sacrifice (shedding of blood)

- **What was supposed to be pure was NOT**
 - This was **opposite** of the **6 purification jars**
- **The Temple – a place for worship of God became *a place of trade... a place of worship of money.***
 - Just before this, ***a place that was NOT the temple, became a place of a miraculous sign.***

You can see, behind the scenes, John is walking us through events that have a theme.

- **A theme to the ministry of Jesus that time and experience revealed to John.**

- A theme that **gives us greater insight into the intention of Jesus** all along...
 - o **Redemption**
 - o **Purification**
 - o **Cleansing**
 - o **Believing**

Certainly this is not all, but these themes are central

SIDE NOTE:

Regarding the “market” that was placed in the Court of the Gentiles at the Temple...

All of this “*convenience*” *may have* started off as a “*good idea*” to some, but **it was not appropriate to say the least.**

You can imagine the arguments for it:

- *“Let us help people traveling far to have a convenient place to buy their sacrifice”*
- *“Let us create a place for people from foreign lands to exchange the currency they came from into a half-shekel for the Temple tax.”*

“How is that a bad plan?!” Said Jacopo, to his boss Edward Dontes in **Count of Monte Cristo**

WE KNOW WHERE THAT LEADS...

- **EVEN IF:**
 - o They were **not** ripping off the poor (*which they likely were*)
 - o **They were providing a service** for the out-of-towners
 - o They started with good intentions...
- **THIS WAS NOT** what the Temple was there for...

The Temple was to be a place:

- o **To seek the Lord**
- o **To find forgiveness**
- o **To be reconciled to God**

THE TEXT does not say, but it would have become a very profitable business for sure.

The Bible makes it clear –

- **You cannot love God and money (Matt. 6:24, Luke 16:3)**
- **The love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10)**
- **Hebrews 13:5, “Keep yourself free from the love of money...”**

JESUS COULD SEE THROUGH ALL OF THIS...

So He:

- **Forcefully** drove them out (the whip showed authority)
- **He spilled the money** by overturning the tables

Jesus declared in verse 16b, ***“Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.”***

- **Jesus drove out all** of those participating
- But John notes, **Jesus said this to the one selling the Pigeons.**
 - o Could it be a message to those **selling to the poor?**
 - o Could it be a specific **inditement here to those extorting the poor?**

Leviticus 5:7

“But if he cannot afford a lamb, then he shall bring to the Lord as his compensation for the sin that he has committed two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering.”

I want to be careful not to read into this too far, but it is interesting to note this and to recognize the heart of Jesus for the poor.

We also cannot ignore the text that John adds –

John 2:17

His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

This was likely **taken from Psalm 69...**

Psalm 69:9

“Zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.”

With Jesus, it could be said, ***“Zeal for MY house...”***

- What **His house was intended** for
- How **God set His house apart** to make it holy
- **Contempt for this house was *contempt for God***
- **This WAS Jesus’ battle to fight.**

The response of “The Jews?”

John 2:18

So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?”

They don’t even really argue with Jesus.

They just want to know by who’s authority did Jesus do these things...

The “sign” Jesus gives them was not in the immediate –

- Though miracles and other “signs” Jesus performs in John’s Gospel do come...
- **Jesus does many things** that would later substantiate His authority...

Instead, Jesus answers with –

John 2:19

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

- We see they did not understand what **Jesus was talking about**
- In fact, **later it became an accusation** of the **false witnesses** against Jesus later in Matt. 26:60-61/Mk. 14:57-59.
- Even **mockers at the cross quoted this** (Matt. 27:40/Mk. 15:29)
- **ALL THAT SAID... Jesus was pointing to the Seventh of the Seven signs John highlights in his Gospel...**

Here, the Jews questioned Jesus about this – *thinking it was literally about re-building the actual Temple...*

INTERESTING is it not – THEY would be the one doing the destroying...

John tells us...

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.

We know how this all plays out – we have read the Book.

Jesus was killed... HIS BODY (in that way...)
Temporarily “destroyed”

Then – Just as Jesus said He would...
...HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

This was all going to play out.

Jesus was not concerned if they understood or not.
It would all play out over time.

Have you thought about what Jesus said... ***“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”***

... In regards to the ACTUAL temple?

THIS has lots of teaching ALL ON IT’S OWN...

BUT – What did the Temple represent?

- A place that ***“housed God”*** – Where God was

- **A place (Moriah) where “God provided a lamb” for Abraham**
- A place to find **redemption and forgiveness**
- A place to **experience God**
- A place to **hear from God**
- A place to **find peace with God**

THIS and MORE is what we see in Jesus...

Jesus “tabernacled” among us... to BE our tabernacle.
THEN we see Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent... now lives in US!

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

There is a whole lot more there... but we will leave this here for now...
 Jesus was not looking to win the crowd.

Jesus was not trying to get more likes, followers or subscribers.
IF HE WAS... He needed to FIRE His Social Media Team!

Jesus had other things in mind.

I believe **this is why John ends this section with verses 23-25**

John 2:23-25

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. 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.

It was not the social media of the day that would aid in His cause.

- Jesus knew Who would justify Him
- Jesus knew Who He was

Jesus also knew –

- **Mankind is fickle**
- **Mankind is flakey**
- **Mankind is flawed with sin**

This is why Jesus went to the cross...

- **WE ARE fickle**
- **WE ARE flakey**
- **WE ARE flawed with sin**

It is not we can do for Him that **will purify us, justify us – or save us...**

- **It is what He HAS DONE for us.**

We obey Him BECAUSE He loves us...

Jesus has called us to not love money or ANYTHING but Him.

Jesus still hates it when we get it out of order like they did in the Temple