

Compelling Portrait Part 5: Going to Extremes

Objective: To help us identify any roadblocks we may have that keep others from connecting to Jesus and challenge us to tear them down.

Read together:

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

John 2:13-17

- When you read the story of Jesus cleansing the temple by driving out the those who sell animals for sacrifice and money changers, what images come to mind? How does John's description of Jesus different than the images we are accustomed to?
- The reason took Jesus took extreme measures and cleared the temple is that those who were supposed to draw people closer to God were actually putting up roadblocks. What were the roadblocks they were putting up?
- As followers of Jesus, we are called to point others to Jesus. How well do you think the church in America today does that? How well do you think our church does that? Why?
- Not only is the church as a whole supposed to help people connect with Jesus, but we as individual followers are supposed to do that as well. What can/should you do that points others to Jesus? What roadblocks have you put up that might keep others from getting closer to Jesus?
- Sometimes, tearing down roadblocks takes extreme measures. Can you think of any extremes you need to go to in order to get out of the way of others connecting with Jesus?

Final Thought: How extreme are you willing to be to make sure you never keep anyone from connecting with Jesus?

This Week: Try to identify anything in your life that may be a roadblock to someone drawing closer to Jesus. Decide what you need to do to tear it down.

