

John 2 Pt 2 Doing Business

Encourage

- **Ch 2:1-12** Jesus first miracle in Cana of Galilee. Water/Wine at Wedding

John 2:12 After [the wedding Jesus] **went down to Capernaum**, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples

- **Capernaum:**

1. Base of Jesus Operation/Apostles Fishing Business
2. Place rebuked in Mat 11:23 for their lack of faith

...and they did not stay there many days.

II. Jesus Cleanses the Temple

13 Now the **Passover** of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus **went up to Jerusalem.**

No matter what direction you head to Jerusalem it is always up
No matter what direction you head from Jerusalem it is always down

Jesus heads to the Yearly Passover Ceremony
Remembering God's Provision: God's Judgment Passing Over Blood/Wood/Nails

Colossians 2:17 ...a shadow of things to come, **but the substance is of Christ.**

Jesus went up to Jerusalem to Observe Passover
IOWs Jesus Observed Ceremonies that Spoke of Him

- OT Ceremonies speak/look forward to Jesus
- OT Ceremonies: Shadow now obsolete after Jesus 1st Coming

Jesus Celebrates until He Arrives at the Temple of God
Over 2 Million people Flooding into Jerusalem

14 And [Jesus] found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers **doing business.**

Christianity is not a Business
The Church is to be about the Father's Business

- **Doing Business in the Temple?** They were doing their business...
 1. Your Sacrifice is not acceptable
 2. I can sell you one that is acceptable
 3. You need to change your money into a special temple coin

Being familiar it became legitimate, and no one thought of any incongruity in it until this young Nazarene felt a flash of zeal for the sanctity of His Father's house consuming Him."
[Maclaren]

Observes/Grabs Leather/Stick/Knife/Patiently Sits down to make a Whip

15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! **Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!**"

- **Drives out** all the merchants/animals
- **Pours out** the ill-gotten gain on the ground

They *did their business* in the Outer Courts: Exploiting/Exploding
The only place the Gentiles were allowed to learn of God

- The Ethiopian, Centurion, Sidonian woman would be there

Mark 9:42 "...whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

Jesus Cleansed His church
For His Father's sake/Sake of those who seek Him

Cleansing was part of the Passover celebration. Removing every speck of anything leavened [made with yeast] from the home was a symbol, a picture, of cleansing from sin.

Tables Turned on the Godless Greedy taking advantage of others
Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise...This is His/Our House

17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "**Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.**" C.f. Psalm 69:9

Jesus Cleanses the Temple 2X
Both at the Beginning then Culmination of His Earthly Ministry

Mark 11:16 And **He would not allow anyone** to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, '**My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations**'? But **you have made it a 'den of thieves.'**" 18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him... [C.f. Mat 21:12-17]

Jesus had always gone to Jerusalem for Passover
At 12 His parents lost Him 3 Days...Found Him at Temple speaking...

Luke 2:47 And **all who heard Him were astonished** at His understanding and answers. 48 So when [Joseph/Mary] saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." 49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that **I must be about My Father's business?**" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

What is the Father's business to be done in His House?
House of Praying. House of Equipping

Are make-believers still doing their business in churches today?
I don't go to church! All they talk about is money, money, money...

- Bingo/Fund Drives
- Accepting tithes from non-believers
- Motivational Fundraisers
- Thermometers in the Lobby
- Guilt Trips/Emotional ploys

If you can't keep the doors open maybe the doors are supposed to be shut?
Where God guides God provides

Make-believers have Infiltrated the Church: Exploiting/Exploding
Devoid of Spirit/Fear of God/Realization of Judgment awaiting

- These are those who are about to do their business in God's House
- There are ways to recognize when dirty business is about to be done: Still/Red Face/Eyes watering

What are the tell-tail signs of those in a church who are about to do bad business?

1 Timothy 6:3 If anyone **teaches otherwise** [False doctrine] **i.e.** does not consent to **wholesome words**, even the words of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, and to the doctrine which accords with **godliness**, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that **godliness** [Here: Looking/acting pious] **is a means of gain**. From such withdraw yourself. 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But **those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare**, and into **many foolish and harmful lusts** which drown men in **destruction and perdition**. 10 For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and **pierced themselves through with many sorrows**.

How does it begin? Godless posing as godly...Pushing their way in

- **Characteristics of Correct Doctrine:** Words that are...
 1. **Words that Make Whole:** Pure uncorrupted
 2. **Words of Jesus Christ**
 3. **Words that Promote Godliness**
- **Characteristics of False Teachers:** Come against correct doctrine
 1. **Pushy:** Proud/Know nothing
 2. **Obsessed:** Disputes/Arguments over words

Believing we are easy to Manipulate/Exploit/Take Advantage of

Luke 16:8 ...the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For **the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light**.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore **be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.**

The Greedy Godless are Exposed by Certain Traits

- **Envious:** Jealous of those in authority
- **Argumentative:** About everything
- **Reviling:** Slandering those in their way
- **Suspicious:** Thinking/Speaking the worst of others
- **Corrupt:** Corrupting
- **Destitute of the Truth:** These are unsaved individuals talking god talk

Obsessed w/Opposing what is right, why? It gets in the way of their wrong goal...
For them, playing church is a just a means to an end

- **Charlatans have always existed:**

1. Jannes/Jambres. Balaam. Simon the Sorcerer
2. Catholic indulgences to buy relative out of purgatory
3. Televangelists: Gene Scott
 - Benny Hinn: 42-60 Million
 - Joel Osteen: 100 Million
 - Paula White: 5 Million
 - Kenneth Copeland: 300-750 Million vs Paul despairing even to death
4. 7th Grade [12 yrs. old] Kid next to me planning to be a televangelist

Using the church as a means to an end...From such withdraw yourself.
True Godliness w/Contentment is Great Gain

A Godly heart is a Thankful heart. A Thankful heart is a Content heart.
We can **Learn** to be Completely Satisfied/Content in Christ alone

Philippians 4:11 ... **I have learned** in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be **full** and to be **hungry**, both to **abound** and to **suffer need**. 13 **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Contentment: A frame of mind which is completely independent of all outward things, and which carries the secret of happiness within itself. IOWs Contentment never comes from the possession of external things. [Barclay]

Genesis 15:1 [After Abe wonders about a son] "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**"

We Brought Nothing in/We Take nothing out
We Never see a Hearse pulling a U-Haul

- **Obsessive Desire for Riches**

1. Temptation/Trap/Snare
2. Motivation toward Foolish/**Harmful** lusts

Their obsessive desire for riches drowns them in a sea of destruction and perdition

Mark 4:18 [Seeds] **sown among thorns**; they are the ones who **hear the word**, 19 and the cares of this world, the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Deceitfulness of Riches: Self-Deceived Money Changers
In the Temple of God stealing from God's people/Believing God does not see

- **Riches Lie/Deceive:** Never deliver what they promise

People still believe money will make them happy
Love of Money is a Root of all kinds of evil

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**

Thus...They will stray from the faith in their greediness [*idolatry*] 1 Tim 6:10

Choosing love of money over love of Jesus never leads to contentment...
Those that do *choose to* pierce themselves w/many sorrows

Jesus turns the Tables on the Godless Greedy
Make believers setting themselves up in churches for personal gain/perversion

- What better way to keep the Gentiles [seekers] from Jesus?
 1. Money grubbing make believers
 2. Sexual Molesters seek cover/Pawns of Satan
 3. Taking advantage of vulnerable...Fool tonight your soul is required

Psalm 50:16 ...to the wicked God says: "**What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth**, 17 Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you?

Jesus is still the God who sees
Jesus is/will continue to cleanse His church Rev 2-3

Instead of allowing make believers to infiltrate/Do their business in church
We are to be about our Father's business: 1)Praying 2) Equipping to save the lost

SUMMARY Vv 1-17 John began with a miracle of **conversion** [changing water into wine]. Then he showed Jesus performing a work of **cleansing** [the cleansing of the temple]. This is always how Jesus works in His people: conversion first, then cleansing. [Guzik]

v 17 Jesus authority over the Temple: Take these things away!
Do not make My Father's house a house of Merchandise!

18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "**What sign** do You show to us, since You do these things?"

IOWs What Authority do You have over this Temple?
Who did Isaiah see sitting on the Throne in the Temple 700 yrs before?

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, **I [Isaiah] saw the Lord sitting on a throne,** high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Isaiah saw the LORD. Father, Son or Holy Spirit? **A.** He saw Jesus

John 12:37 ...although He [Jesus] had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the **word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled...41 These things Isaiah said when he [Isaiah] saw His [Jesus] glory and spoke of Him [Jesus].**

Isaiah saw Jesus on the Throne in the Temple
Tell us what sign You will do to prove Your authority over this Temple

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.**" 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken **forty-six years** to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

Destroy this Temple/In three days I will raise it up
His own words will be twisted in order to crucify Him...

- **At the Trial:** Mat 26:60b ... But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, *'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'*"
- **At the Cross:** Mark 15:29 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!*"

21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Jesus claimed to have the power to raise Himself from the dead
Jesus had the power to raise Himself from the dead and He lives today!

Who raised Jesus from the Dead?
God the Father. God the Son. God the Holy Spirit?

Galatians 1:1 [Father] ...**God the Father who raised Him from the dead...**

John 10:18 [Son] **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.**

Romans 8:11 [Holy Spirit] **...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells** in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- Here Jesus: Destroy this Temple and I will Raise It Up!

The Body of Christ is still a Temple
The Church as a whole/Individual believers empowered/filled w/God's Spirit

22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples **remembered that He had said** this to them; and they **believed the Scripture and the word** which Jesus had said.

Psalms 16:10 [Believed the Scripture] ...You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

The Holy Spirit illuminated Jesus Words to His followers after Resurrection

Luke 24:8 [Angels to women at Tomb] ...**And they remembered His words.**

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

As we glorify Jesus His Spirit brings His words to Remembrance as we need them
The Disciples believed the Scripture *and* the Word of Jesus

23 Now when [Jesus] was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name** when they **saw the signs which He did**. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men...

His Disciples believed the Scripture/Word of Jesus
These believed *when they saw signs*

If belief is nothing more than admiration for the spectacular, it will create in multitudes applause; but the Son of God *cannot commit Himself to that kind of faith*. [Morgan]

Awe of Jesus w/out repentance before Jesus is not saving faith. Being a fan of Jesus and knowing all about Jesus is still not saving faith. If we don't grasp our personal need for a Savior we don't yet have a Savior and thus are not yet saved. IOWs **Rejecting any/all faith in ourselves** and placing complete faith in Jesus/His finished work on the Cross for your sin/Coming to Him in humble repentance in response to His grace and receiving His Holy Spirit...**now that's saving faith**. [NJC]

- **vv 23-25** are an introduction to John Ch 3

Jesus Knows All Men Because He is the Discerner of All Hearts

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden **from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

Jesus knows everything about us...*and still loves us*

Knowing what was and is in humanity, *Jesus still loves*. He knew and knows the worst; yet also sees the image of God, even upon fallen men and women. [Guzik]

- Loves us right where we are at but too much to leave us there

Jesus did not commit Himself to them because He knew all men...

25 ...and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

Jesus knew who He was...Where He came from...Where He was going
He did not require the platitudes of men...

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that **He had come from God and was going to God**, [So He served others] 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

Paul knew who he was In Christ
He refused to absorb the Insults or Compliments of men into his heart

1 Corinthians 4:3 ...with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but **He who judges me is the Lord.**

- **Don't dwell on you:** What you think of yourself/What others may think
- **Dwell on Jesus:** Who you are In Him/What He about you/His will for your life...

Whether Rejoicing at a Wedding or Throwing Down at the Temple
Know who you are in Christ/Get on with the mission Jesus has assigned you