

How Do You Handle Anger?

John 2:13—22

What Does The Bible Say?

13 It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. 14 In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. (John 2:13–14 NLT)

This was the court of Gentiles.

15 Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. 16 Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" (John 2:15–16 NLT)

Matthew, Mark, and Luke have Jesus clearing the temple at the end of Jesus' ministry, whereas John has it at the beginning of His ministry.

17 Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." (John 2:17 NLT)

This quote is from Psalm 69:9, where Jesus fulfills a prophecy that the Messiah would be consumed with God's house.

18 But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." 19 "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:18–19 NLT)

Jews wanted a sign; Jesus gave them a veiled miracle in the future.

20 “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” 21 But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said. (John 2:20–22 NLT).

It took Jesus’ resurrection for the disciples to understand Jesus’ statement.

John tells the story of Jesus cleansing the temple in Jerusalem to establish three primary truths:

1. God owns His temple, not priests. He called priests to steward the temple and to help people approach Him as He commanded.

2. God's Word is the only authority recognized in the temple, not the high priest or any other designated position. Anyone acting contrary to His Word has no authority.

3. God's Son came to claim ownership of the temple, and the religious "authorities" rejected Him. This point is repeated often in John's narrative and ultimately leads to the final rejection of Jesus as the Messiah.

How Can You Obey?

Four ways to deal with anger.

15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Ephesians 4:15 NLT)

We must speak the truth in love.

26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26–27 NLT)

We must not allow what is bothering us to build up until we lose control.

29 Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. (Ephesians 4:29. 31 NLT)

Attack the problem, not the person.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31–32 NLT)

Act, don't react.

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School

teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

Who or what makes you angry?

Question 2 of 4

How should Jesus's anger with the temple vendors caution us in how we enter into worship?

Question 3 of 4

How can Jesus be speaking of his body when referring to the temple?

Question 4 of 4

In what way does Christ wish to come and cleanse our spiritual lives and the spiritual life of His Church (2:13–22)?