

The First Public Cleansing

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / Temple Cleansing / John 2:12–25

Believe that Jesus is the center of and means for true worship as the only source of all truth.

Notes

03/10 John 2:12-25, "The First Public Cleansing" Subtitle: The First Passover, Scripture: Deut. 7:6-9

- What has "church become?"
- What do people look for in church?
- What do most people think of as worship?
- What should be at the center of worship and is it center in churches today?
- Why are you here?
- Why are we here?
- Who or what do you come to see?
- What are you willing to believe and will you choose to believe it?
- Who determines truth for you?

These are all questions that humanity is forced to seek answers for both in the context of the life of Christ related to us in the gospels and in every cultural context within which man has existed.

John, in the last half of chapter 2, relates how Jesus forced those in His context to struggle with those questions. Having done so, He led them and all who now read this account to make a choice. It is a simple choice to understand, but for some a difficult choice to make. That choice is this, believe or not. John's very own words near the end of his life, the age of the

apostles, and the turn of the first century, testifies of his hearts desire for all who would read his writings throughout all ages, at the end of this gospel, John 20:31.

John 20:31 NASB95

³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

The respected historian Alfred Edersheim explained that both Josephus and the Rabbinic writings claim that Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, was in charge of the "Temple-market." The Rabbinic writings referred to this market as the "Bazaars of the sons of Annas" while Josephus claimed that Annas (the son of the high priest Annas) was very rich and guilty of "despoiling by open violence the common priests of their official revenues."

-Alfred Edersheim

Jesus cleansed the temple on at least two occasions: once at the beginning and again at the end of His earthly ministry. This should not surprise us since God repeatedly stressed in His Word that it is more important to obey Him than it is to perform empty rituals, especially when those rituals are done for convenience or personal gain.

Jesus' first cleansing of the temple is described in John 2:11–12 as having occurred just after Jesus' first miracle, the turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana. John makes it clear that it was "after this" that He went to Capernaum, where He "stayed for a few days." Then in the next verse (verse 13), John tells us that the "Passover of the Jews was at hand" (NKJV). These verses trace Jesus' movements over a short period of time from Cana in Galilee to Capernaum and eventually to Jerusalem for the Passover. This is

the first of the two times Jesus cleansed the temple. The Synoptic Gospels do not record the temple cleansing mentioned in John 2, instead only recording the temple cleansing that occurred during Passion Week.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/temple-cleanse.html>

The manner in which John relates this first cleansing of the temple and excludes relating the second cleansing suggests that this first even is more important to his purpose in writing this gospel, so that humanity might believe.

“the Synoptic evangelists do not record Jesus’ earlier visits to Jerusalem for the other four festivals,” but in turn, only those 3 gospels relate the 2nd cleansing.

The second cleansing of the temple occurred just after Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem the last week of His life. This second cleansing is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke but not in John. There are differences in the two events, aside from their being nearly three years apart. In the first cleansing, temple officials confronted Jesus immediately (John 2:18), whereas in the second cleansing, the chief priests and scribes confronted Him the following day (Matthew 21:17–23). In the first event, Jesus made a whip of cords with which to drive out the sellers and animals, but there is no mention of a whip in the second cleansing. So there are two recorded occasions when Jesus cleansed the temple—the first time at the beginning of His public ministry which we see starting here in John 3, and the second time just after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem shortly before He was crucified.

Jesus has nothing to prove yet still chooses to prove all things eventually, but He does not need mankind to verify it, for mankind is not that which determines truth, Jesus is. Mankind has only 2 choices, believe or not.

Believe that Jesus is the center of and means for true worship as the only source of all truth.

Jesus is the center of and means for true worship (John 2:12-21)

Jesus is the source of all truth (John 2:22-25)

Believe that Jesus is the center of and means for true worship as the only source of all truth.

1 John 5:13 NASB95

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- What has "church become?
- What do people look for in church?
- What do most people think of as worship?
- What should be at the center of worship and is it center in churches today?
- Why are you here?
- Why are we here?
- Who or what do you come to see?

- What are you willing to believe and will you choose to believe it?
- Who determines truth for you?

These are all questions that humanity is forced to seek answers for both in the context of the life of Christ related to us in the gospels and in every cultural context within which man has existed.

How do you answer these questions and what choice do you make?

Believe or not?