

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
Cleansing of the Temple
John 2:13-22
Week 5 February 1, 2026
Pastor Mike Popovich

When we read the bible sometimes our first impression is not the true meaning of the story. We need to understand the context of the story to get a grasp on the meaning.

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. John 2:13-22 ESV

IT WAS TIME FOR PASSOVER

A big part of the celebration was the meal designed to retell the story and the offering of a proper sacrifice at the Temple.

The tithe reminds us that God created everything and we are blessed with all we receive.

What Jesus did was to challenge the way the sacrifices were being handled and to bring a prophecy for the near future.

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

Jesus takes a rope and uses it as a whip to drive the animals out of the courtyard.

Jesus was whipped 39 times prior to His crucifixion. The cross for Jesus is on the horizon.

Jesus drives the animals out because they are only an example of sacrifice to pay for sin. Jesus realizes He will be the sacrifice that pays for our sin.

Jesus' sacrifice cleansed us of all unrighteousness so we could approach God ourselves.

SHOW US A SIGN

Jesus comes to the Temple and attempts to point out bad behavior.

The religious leaders did not see the point Jesus was making. The worship of God has been replaced with doing the business of making sacrifices.

So they want a sign.

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

When Jesus dies the veil in the Temple separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies is torn in two from the top to the bottom. God's presence will no longer be in temples made by humans. We will worship in the Spirit.

JESUS IS OUR FOUNDATION

Jesus is the firm foundation you can build your life on.

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

John 14:23 ESV

Living with Jesus means we live life together with Jesus doing life Jesus' way.