

Encounters with Jesus, Week 2 **Small Group Discussion Guide, week of Nov. 6th**

NOVEMBER 6TH SERMON SUMMARY

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS: THE MONEY CHANGER (JOHN 2:13-22)

The one time Jesus got mad and lost his temper was when he saw the merchants and money changers in the outer courtyard of the temple. What wrong focuses made Jesus so mad?

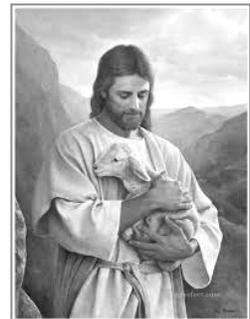
1. Greed over God's Presence. The money changer might think he is just trying to make a living, but Jesus saw the sacred place of worship and prayer overridden by the focus on money.
2. Ritual over Relationship. Doing religious stuff masked a genuine love for God and miss true intimacy with God. ed
3. Apathy over Passion. Over time, the passion for God faded and people cared less and less about the sanctity of His presence and the specialness of God dwelling among them.

Jesus was upset at the compromise in their worship, and this calls us to examine our hearts. We have the greater opportunity to experience God's presence because we know Jesus, the new temple, the new center of pure worship (v. 19-22.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1a. This is a typical picture of Jesus – you may have seen or grown up with a picture like this. How does it illustrate our typical ideas about Jesus?

b. What do you think of the idea of Jesus getting mad?



READ JOHN 2:13-22

13 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."

18 The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” **21** But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

2. Discuss the details in v. 13-16. Explain each and why it is significant:

- a. When did this happen?
- b. Where did it happen?
- c. Who was there?
- d. What did Jesus do?
- e. Why did he do it?

3. If you were there, what would have surprised, shocked, or upset you:

- a. As a merchant or money changer?
- b. As a disciple of Jesus?
- c. As a religious leader?
- d. Which one can you most relate to? Explain your answer.

4. Jesus was upset that the money changers focused on the wrong things. How do you see these wrong focuses in how people worship today?

- a. Greed over God’s Presence
- b. Ritual over Relationship
- c. Apathy over Passion

5. Why do you think worship was so important to Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

6a. How does worship affect your experience of God's presence and/or your relationship with Him?

b. What gets in the way of truly worshipping God for you?

7. Brandon talked about the need to examine our hearts in worship. Which of the following questions convicts you? Share whatever you feel comfortable sharing about any of them.

- What do I see when I walk into God's house?
- Do I think mostly about how I sound and what others think?
- Do I think it's about good singing and going through the ritual of worship service?
- Do I really believe that worship – and how I respond to God – matters?
- Do I really believe God is here as I worship, that God cares about me, that God has come here to be with me?