

**Jesus, The True Temple**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 2:12-22**  
 Southern Hills Baptist Church  
 September 11, 2016

**Introduction:** Jesus is complex. Consider this, at the start of John 2 we see Jesus' tenderness and compassion as He performs a miracle to rescue a newly married couple from social shame at a wedding. Only verses later we see Him make a whip and chase people from the Temple, all the while wrecking the market. This unlikely pair of stories from John 2 shows two extremes and reminds us of the complexity of Jesus. Red flags should fly up when we hear people boil Jesus down to just one of His characteristics (i.e. Jesus is love or Jesus hates sin). John 2 won't allow for that simplicity as he gives us fascinating insight into the person of Jesus through an unexpected story.

**Jesus' Great Passion: The Glory of God (vs. 12-17)**

- **Setting:** Jesus traveled from Capernaum to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. This is an 85 miles trip taken by foot.
  - **Application:** This shows us the priority worship was in Jesus' life. What priority do you give it? Do you sacrifice other things in your life (comfort, rest, convenience, schedule) to make worship a priority?
- **Cultural Context:** Why are animals being sold in the temple? Jerusalem was flooded with visitors at the time of Passover. Traveling long distances with an extra animal would be difficult and slow so travelers bought their sacrifices in Jerusalem. Merchants moved in the Temple to be conveniently located for shoppers.
- **The Scene:** As Jesus walked into the Temple he saw merchants vying for the attention of the people, calling out deals. The animals were mooing, baaing, and chirping, There was the rumble of voices as people negotiated prices. It felt like he was in the market, not the Temple.
- **Jesus' Response:** Why was Jesus so mad? Did He overreact? The Temple was made to be a place where people came and gave their full focus to God in worship and thanksgiving. How easy would that be with the madness of a bazaar? Jesus' anger came from knowing that God wasn't being worshiped and enjoyed fully b/c of the market's distraction, which was fueled by a desire to turn bigger profits (i.e. greed). Jesus knew the hearts of these merchants (vs. 25).
- **Application:** Jesus shows us that the glory of God is His great passion. Here is a test to help learn if this is your great passion: What makes you mad or angry? Do you find yourself angry when life doesn't go as you have planned? When your will is thwarted? When your agenda is interrupted? Or do you find yourself mad when God is demeaned in some way? When His glory is directed to another?

**Jesus' Victorious Promise: Resurrection Victory (vs. 18-22)**

- **Jesus' Promise:** Jesus offers to rebuild the Temple in 3 days if the Jews would destroy it. This confounded the Jews, as it was impossible in their minds, but Jesus was speaking at a different level. He was foretelling of His resurrection. His resurrection is what gave Him all authority!
- **Application:** Jesus' resurrection offers hope far greater than anyone could imagine. It is the guarantee that our Savior lives to deliver on His promises to us (Rom 6:9), that Jesus can forgive our sins (1 Cor 15:17), that Jesus gives new life (1 Pet 1:3), that Jesus is still working on our behalf (Rom 8:34), that we too will find resurrection life (1 Cor 15:20-21). Rejoice! Jesus has rebuilt the Temple!!!

**Jesus' Divine Person: The True Temple (vs. 18-22)**

- **Jesus' Person:** The second layer of meaning to Jesus' promise to rebuild the Temple in 3 days was that His resurrected life would be the New, True Temple. Just as Jesus has fulfilled all the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament (priesthood, sacrifice, purity, mercy seat), He would fulfill the fuller meaning and purpose of the Temple in Himself.
- **Application:** What does it mean for Jesus to be the True Temple?
  - Jesus is the better presence of God (John 1:14, Matt 27:51)
  - Jesus is our place of communion with God (Matt 28:20b)
  - Jesus is where we find mediation with God (Heb 7:23-27)
  - Jesus is where we find a complete forgiveness (Heb 10:11-14)

**Visual Verses**  
**Cleansing the Temple**  
**John 2:12-25**

