

PASSION AND VERTICAL PURPOSE

John 2:12-25

Tags

Jesus, temple, worship, John, the gospel of John, disciples, sign, John 2, passover, resurrection, believe

Introduction

Excitement fills the air as these new disciples, and Jesus' family make their way to Capernaum. It's springtime, and as they near the village, the beauty of the Sea of Galilee looks picturesque against snowcapped Mt. Hermon. The first sign is still fresh in their minds as they spend only a few days before heading toward Jerusalem. People had been preparing for weeks. There is a sense of excitement with the spirit of Passover. Jerusalem was filling with people from everywhere.

The roads are probably very congested as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem. As they enter the gates of the city, the cream and gold of the great temple are breathtaking. The crowds were almost unbearable as the congestion became even worse. Jesus enters the temple to a scene that is untenable. The temple is overrun with animals and money-changers. There is plenty of activity but not much worship. Jesus' pulse begins to race, his breathing quickens, and he takes decisive action, makes a whip, and drives out everything that is out of place.

This uproar did not go unnoticed, and some Jewish leaders asked for a sign. Jesus' answer confuses them, and the disciples don't fully understand until after Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is the true temple, the place where man and God meet, and he has the authority to demand worship. Passion and VERTICAL PURPOSE go together.

Outline

Jesus takes worship seriously.

Jesus' jealous anger was not sinful.

Jesus' authority is usually in question.

Jesus is the place where man and God meet.

Jesus' resurrection changes everything and settles the authority question.

The sign comes later, but Jesus' authority is confirmed.

God knows your heart.

Application

The way you worship matters to God.

Jesus' body is the true temple, and you are His temple.

You can't hide anything from Jesus, and you don't have to.

Does Jesus believe in you?

Living with VERTICAL PURPOSE means:

- Pray without ceasing.
- Worship without stopping.
- Love without limits.
- Serve without a break.
- Witness without fear.

Questions

1. How can Jesus be angry? Isn't anger sinful? How would you explain this to someone else? What can we learn from James 1:19-20 when it comes to our anger?
2. What ways can we show zeal for worshipping God when we gather?
3. The Jews struggled with Jesus' authority. What are ways we question Jesus' authority in our lives?
4. How does Jesus' body become the place where we meet God for salvation?
5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the disciples' understanding of what Jesus meant after his resurrection? (John 14:26)
6. What are some ways churches make it difficult for people to worship?
7. Is there anything you need to change regarding how you approach a Sunday morning gathering? Why?