

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

WEEK FIVE: JESUS GETS ANGRY

READING

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, YOU CAN READ THE UNDERLINED PORTIONS ONLY

13 It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. 14 In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. 15 Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. 16 Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" 17 Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." 18 But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." 19 "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" 21 But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

John 2 (NLT)

TEACHING

In this story, Jesus visits the temple in Jerusalem during a Jewish holiday called Passover. The temple was a place where the Jews gathered to worship God. During a feast like Passover, Jewish people and non-Jewish (Gentile) believers traveled from far away to worship at the temple. One of the ways they worshipped at the feasts was with animal sacrifices. Once arriving, these travelers would exchange their foreign currency for local currency with the money changers in order to buy animals from the temple merchants; this was a lot easier than bringing an ox, sheep or dove on a long trip! So, why did Jesus get angry at the money changers and merchants? Weren't they being helpful?

Jesus was angry because his Father's house was meant to be a place for all nations to come and worship. The money changers were exchanging the money at a dishonest rate and the merchants were charging an unfair price for the animals. They had also filled up the outer area of the temple (known as the court of Gentiles) with their businesses; there wasn't enough space for the Gentiles to gather. So, the money changers and merchants were getting rich by taking advantage of these visitors' desire to worship God while making it difficult for them to do so. When Jesus saw this, he knew he had a responsibility to say and do something. Jesus became angry because he was consumed with "passion for God's house." That means he loved and cared about the things his Father loved and cared about. Jesus wasn't angry for selfish reasons. He was angry for the right reasons.

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RESPONSE

OPENING QUESTION(S):

- What makes you angry? How do you express your anger?

TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- What did people do in the temple?
- What did Jesus do when He got angry?
- What Jesus right or wrong for getting mad?

CHILDREN:

- Why did people travel to the temple during Passover?
- What did they need to worship and how did they get it?
- Why was Jesus angry? What does this show us about Jesus and his Father?

TEENAGERS:

- Why was Jesus angry? What does it teach us about God and what He cares about?
- How is Jesus' anger different than our anger?
- What is something in this world that it is right to be angry about?

ADULTS:

- How do you know when your anger is selfish instead of righteous?
- What truths about God should you rehearse when you are struggling with anger?

PRAYER

God, thank you that you care about all kinds of people. Thank you that you want everyone to be able to know you, love you and worship you. Help me to never be an obstacle to someone knowing your love and truth. Give me strength to stand up for the right things and the wisdom to know when and how to do so. Thank you that Jesus got angry about the right things, but never angry about the wrong things. Thank you that he did that as an example, but also as my substitute. In Jesus' name, amen.

NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

In verse 18, the Jewish leaders demand a sign from Jesus—a sign that he has the authority to do what he did. Jesus' reply stunned the crowd; it is arguably the most shocking thing he said that is recorded in the gospels. Rebuild the temple in three days?! The leaders must have thought that Jesus was either insane or insanelly arrogant. They remember and use this claim to try and convict him at his trial (Mk. 14:58).

What they didn't understand (and to be fair, neither did the disciples until after the resurrection) was that Jesus was saying his body was the temple. He was predicting his resurrection. If they had understood, it would have been more offensive, even blasphemous. The temple was the way to approach God. Jesus was saying that he is now the true and better way to approach God.