

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 2 PT. 2: Jesus Cleanses The Temple

John 2:13-25

Verse 13

John 2:13 (NASB) – “The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.”

Understanding: You must understand what is happening to understand the next verses.

- **Passover** (also known as Pesach).
- **Shavuot** (also known as Pentecost).
- **Sukkot** (also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths).

Note: Collectively known as Shalosh Regalim in Hebrew. It translates to "Three Feet" or "Three Journey Festivals", referring to the tradition of Jews making pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem during these festivals.



- Traveling to Jerusalem to observe the Three Pilgrimage Festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) is a form of “Aliyah”.

- "Aliyah" literally means "to ascend" and originally referred to the journey to Jerusalem for these festivals.
- While Aliyah has evolved to encompass the broader concept of Jewish immigration to Israel, its roots lie in this ancient practice of ascending to Jerusalem for the three major Jewish holidays.

Key Event: Jesus, at the age of twelve, became separated from His parents while they were returning home from the Passover festival in Jerusalem.

Visit to Jerusalem

Luke 2:41-43 (NASB) – “⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up *there* according to the custom of the feast; ⁴³ and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days *required*, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents were unaware *of it*.”



Passover/Pesach: Even though not considered a High Holy Day in Judaism, it is a major Jewish holiday, as well as being observed by Christians, commemorating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt, as told in the Book of Exodus.

Key: John 2:13 is now the first Passover since Jesus has started His earthly ministry.

Verse 14

John 2:14 (NASB) - ¹⁴ And within the temple *grounds* **He found** those who were selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and the money changers **seated at their tables.**

Note: “He found” - Jesus knows what the Temple is for and what should be taking place. Remember: He has been here before.

KJV

John 2:14 (KJV) – ¹⁴ And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money **sitting:**

Key: Holy Spirit said, **“Focus on the posture”**: “Seated” & “Sitting”.



- It was not just **what** they were doing, but the fact that they have become **comfortable** in what they are doing.
- They are comfortable with bringing the world into the House of G-d!
- What Jesus does next is a display of Righteous Indignation!

Verses 15-16

John 2:15-16 (NASB) – ¹⁵ And He made a whip of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple *area*, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; ¹⁶ and to those who were selling the doves He said, ‘Take these things away from here; stop making **My Father’s house** a place of business!’”

Matthew doesn't say it so nicely!

Matthew 21:12-13 (NASB) – “¹² And Jesus entered the temple *area* and drove out all those who were selling and buying on the temple *grounds*, and He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.

¹³ And He said to them, ‘It is written: “MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER”; but you are making it a DEN OF ROBBERS.’”

Righteous Indignation-Defined as a feeling of anger or shock directed at something that is perceived as morally unjust or unfair.

- This is a justifiable response to wrongdoing, often rooted in a commitment to what is considered good and holy.
- This is **not** anger motivated by personal gain or spite
- Righteous Indignation seeks to uphold truth and justice, and restore what has been violated.

Important: Even when Jesus was a child, He knew His Father's house was set apart for the things of G-d and not the things of this world!

Jesus At 12 Years Old



Luke 2:46-49 (NASB) – “⁴⁶ Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the **teachers**, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸ When *Joseph and Mary* saw Him, they were bewildered; and His mother said to Him, ‘Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You!’ ⁴⁹ And He said to them, ‘Why *is it* that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?’”

Question: Who was Jesus sitting with?

Answer: The teachers!

Note: The lack of Biblical teachers is what has caused the downfall of the Church! (The American Church has become a Den of Thieves.)

KEY: THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL, BUT TO MANY!

Remember: Religion will always challenge Relationship! (**Fathers House Vs. Den of Thieves.**)

Verse 17

John 2:17 (NASB) – “¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written: ‘ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.’”

Key: They are referencing A Psalm of David.

Psalm 69:9 (NASB) – “For zeal for Your house has consumed me, And the taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on me.”

Zeal-(Hebrew)-qin’a-kin-aw’; jealousy or envy:—envy(-ied), jealousy, of men for G-d.



Understanding: David was expressing a profound, burning passion and dedication to a specific cause or object; in this case, G-d's house (the Temple or the spiritual temple of the individual).

- David was in great distress because his Zeal for G-d cost him his family.
- David's Zeal for G-d caused him to be despised by those who once said they loved him.
- The Disciples were comparing Jesus' zeal over the house of G-d and His Father, to that of Kings David's in Psalm 69.
- They both knew that the Temple was set aside as a holy place for G-d; for worship to Him and the sharing of His Truth's.

Verses 18-22

John 2:18-22 (NASB) – “¹⁸ The Jews then said to Him, ‘What sign do You show us as Your authority 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 took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days?’ ²¹ But He was speaking about the temple of His body. ²² So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

Darkness Cannot Comprehend Light

Note: Of course, the religious leaders thought that Yeshua was speaking of a literal tearing down of the Temple that took 46 years to build.



- John the Apostle makes it noticeably clear for the readers.
- John was speaking of what he knew would soon happen.
- John knew Jesus was speaking of His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Jesus' Resurrection was the rebuilt Temple that He raised up!

Understanding: The long-awaited 3rd Temple prophecy is not what is being referenced here. The 3rd Temple is believed to be a crucial step in the restoration of Israel and the coming of the Messianic Age.

- Both Daniel and Yeshua (Jesus) tell us that the Anti-Messiah will defile the literal Third Temple before the return of the true Messiah.
- They both call this spiritual defilement in the Temple the abomination of desolation.

Verses 23-25

John 2:23-25 (NASB) – “²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name as they observed His signs which He was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself to them**, because He knew all people, ²⁵ and because He did not need anyone to testify about mankind, for He Himself knew what was in mankind.”

Understanding:

“Not entrusting Himself to them”

- Jesus knew that these were new converts at Jerusalem, where He had many enemies that sought to destroy Him as well.
- Because they were *false*, at least some of them would betray Him if they had an opportunity, or were strongly tempted to do so.
- Jesus also knew that they would be weak.
- Jesus also understood, in times of difficulty and danger, cowards are not fit to be trusted.

“He Himself knew what was in mankind”

Matthew 16:4 (NASB) – “⁴ ‘An evil and adulterous generation wants a sign; and *so* a sign will not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah.’ And He left them and went away.”

The End