

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

John 2:13-25

March 28 ,2021

The Temple was used for worship and sacrifice.

Many had come to take advantage of the Temple for personal gain (and in this case during Passover when there would have been a lot of foot traffic).

"Jesus revealed His zeal for God first of all by *cleansing the temple* (John 2:13–17). The priests had established a lucrative business of exchanging foreign money for Jewish currency, and also selling the animals needed for the sacrifices. No doubt, this 'religious market' began as a convenience for the Jews who came long distances to worship in the temple; but in due time the 'convenience' became a business, not a ministry. The tragedy is that this business was carried on in the court of the Gentiles in the temple, the place where the Jews should have been meeting the Gentiles and telling them about the one true God. Any Gentile searching for truth would not likely find it among the religious merchants in the temple.' ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

The "religious" (leaders) had become a stumbling block.

Why did Jesus "flip the tables"? Because He had zeal for His Father and His Father's House (verse 17).

2205 *zēlos* (an onomatopoeic term that mimics the sound of water bubbling over from heat and perhaps derived from [2204](#) /*zéō*, "to boil") – properly, burning emotion (inner feeling boiling over, "boiling from heat," J. Thayer); (figuratively) something very *fervent* ("red-hot") as with Spirit-fueled zeal to *serve the Lord*. This root (*zē-*) is used both negatively ("jealousy") and positively ("zeal") depending on *the context*.

[The root (*zē-*, "zeal") literally means "hot enough to *boil*." It is metaphorically used of "burning anger, love, zeal" (A-S) – i.e. *to burn (in spirit)*. It can refer to "*boiling anger, love, zeal, for what is good or bad*" (J. Thayer).]¹

What do we have zeal for? What are we zealous for? What sets us off?

- Sports
- Weather
- Bad days
- Someone else's sin
- Someone's treatment of us
- Gas prices
- Politics

Our basis for what makes us zealous should be Jesus and His heart.
Are we zealous for the things of God, from the perspective of God?

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/2205.htm>

Would our prayer be, “God, would You make us zealous for You and the things of You?”

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

Rejoicing
Engaging
Discipling
Encouraging

Some of the people who were watching Jesus perform miracles were zealous for the **miracles** but not for Jesus/salvation? (verses 23-25)

Salvation is placing (by faith) by trusting in what Jesus has done for me on the cross so that I can know Jesus now (personal relationship) and in the future (heaven).

There is a **belief** that doesn't save.

Good man
Sinless
Miracle worker
Son of God
What he can do for me (rabbits foot)

“It was one thing to respond to a miracle but quite something else to commit oneself to Jesus Christ and continue in His Word (John 8:30–31).” ~ Warren Wiersbe

“The same miracles that attracted Nicodemus to Jesus caused some of the other religious leaders to want to kill Him! They even asserted that His miracles were done in the power of Satan! Our Lord's miracles were testimonies (John 5:36), giving evidence of His divine sonship; but they were also *tests*, exposing the hearts of the people (John 12:37ff).” ~ Warren Wiersbe

Prayer Focus:

- **Do I know Jesus?**
- **Do I have a zeal for Jesus and the things of Jesus? Would I ask the Lord to make me zealous for Him and that which he is zealous for?**
- **Am I making time for Jesus?**