

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 4

The Week of October 27, 2024

Come and See

What Kind of Messiah Did You Expect?

John 2:12-25

In your Growth Group gathering we encounter a bold and even shocking side of Jesus as He cleanses the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus drives out the animal sellers and overturns the tables of the money changers. He did not stand for the temple becoming a marketplace. His actions reveal His passionate commitment to true worship, His authority as the Son of God, and His zeal for His Father's house. This moment not only displays Jesus' righteous indignation, but also reveals His mission. He is not merely the Savior who comforts; He is also the Lord who confronts. In cleansing the temple, He is also showing that He is ultimately the place where we encounter God and meet with Him.

OBSERVATION *(What does the passage say and how does it say it?)*

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Draw a small clock around all references to *time* to track sequence and historical context.
- Place a rectangle around names of places or geography.
- Place a Δ over all references, including pronouns, to God the Father.
- Double underline all *action verbs* that describe what Jesus, the disciples, or the Jews said or did.
- Draw a Λ over all references to the temple and Jesus' body.
- Place a question mark (?) in the left margin near any questions asked in the text
- Write **OT** in the left margin next to any prophecy or promise to be fulfilled by the Messiah.
- Draw a circle around words related to faith, belief, and trust.

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us 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 has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

- **Summarize in one sentence the passage's central idea.**
(What is the writer talking about and what is he saying about what he is talking about?)

INTERPRETATION *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. Why does Jesus react so strongly to the sellers and money changers in the temple? How does this action reveal His attitude toward the temple and worship?
2. What does the phrase “zeal for your house will consume me” (from Psalm 69:9) tell us about Jesus' character and mission? How does this Old Testament quotation deepen our understanding of the passage?
3. What is the significance of the Jewish leaders demanding a sign from Jesus? What does their request reveal about their understanding of authority and religion?
4. When Jesus says, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” what does He mean? How does this statement relate to both the physical temple and Jesus' body?
5. How did Jesus' disciples respond to His statement about the temple after His resurrection? What does this tell us about how they grew in their understanding of Jesus over time?

6. What does it mean to say Jesus *knew all people* and therefore, did not *entrust* Himself to them even though many believed because of His signs? What does this tell us about the nature of their belief?

APPLICATION (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

1. What is the dominant emotion you feel after reading this story?

2. How does Jesus' cleansing of the temple challenge the way we think about Jesus? What kind of Messiah do we expect Him to be in contrast to who He really is?

3. The Jewish leaders were focused on the physical temple, while Jesus pointed to a deeper spiritual reality. Are there areas in our own lives where we might be too focused on external or outward things, missing the deeper spiritual truths?

4. Jesus' statement about raising the temple in three days refers to His resurrection. How should the reality of His resurrection shape the way we live out our faith today?

5. The passage says that Jesus knows what is in the heart of every person. How does this truth impact the way we relate to Him, knowing that He sees beyond our outward actions to our true motives?

6. The disciples only understood Jesus' words after His resurrection. Have there been moments in your life when God's actions or words only made sense to you later?

