



BIBLE STUDY

September 8, 2026

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Theme & Theme Verse

“Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John: That You May Believe”

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. – John 20:31

JOHN 2

Lesson Subject: JESUS CLEANSES THE TEMPLE: HIS AUTHORITY REVEALED

Scripture: John 2:13-22

Lesson Aim

To understand what Jesus’ actions in the Temple reveal about His authority, His relationship with the Father, His identity as the true meeting place between God and humanity, and how the entire episode points toward His death and resurrection.

Guiding Question

Throughout our study of John 2, we are going to keep asking:

WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT JESUS?

I. JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM FOR PASSOVER (vs.13)

- Israel was in bondage. God instructed each household to sacrifice an _____ and place its _____ on the _____.
- Wherever the blood was applied, _____ passed over.
- Passover becomes a _____ pointing to the greater redemption Christ will accomplish, and that is – deliverance from sin through His _____.

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE

1. It was the place of God's presence.
2. It was filled with His glory.
3. It was the center of sacrifice, prayer, atonement, and thanksgiving.

III. JESUS CONFRONTS WHAT THE TEMPLE HAS BECOME (vv.14–16)

A. What Jesus Finds

- Cattle, sheep, and doves, and moneychangers
- The problem was not the _____ itself. It was _____ it was happening and _____ it was preventing.

B. Why the Merchants and Money Changers Were There

- The sacrificial system _____ animals.
- Money had to be _____ for coinage that could be used for Temple-related obligations and transactions.

C. Jesus Takes Deliberate Action

- He is disrupting what has taken over the Temple courts and asserting His authority over what belongs to His Father.

D. Righteous Anger Versus Uncontrolled Anger

- Jesus' anger is rooted in _____. He is responding to the misuse of what belongs to God.
- Holy anger is governed by a devotion to God, not personal rage.

IV. JESUS REVEALS HIS ZEAL FOR HIS FATHER'S HOUSE (vv.16-17)

A. The Claim of Sonship

- His _____ as the Son is the basis of His _____.

B. Zeal for God's House

- Zeal is an intense devotion—a consuming commitment to something that matters deeply.
- Scriptures describing a zeal for God:

Psalms 69:9 — “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Deuteronomy 6:5 — “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Psalms 119:139 — “My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words.”

John 4:34 — Jesus says, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”

John 8:29 — “I always do what pleases him.”

C. Zeal That Will Cost Him

- His commitment to the Father's will and the Father's honor will bring Him into increasing _____ and _____, ultimately leading Him to the cross.

- True devotion is more than what we _____ about God. It is revealed by what we are willing to _____ in order to remain faithful to Him.

V. JESUS' AUTHORITY IS CHALLENGED (vs.18)

A. "Who Gave You the Right?"

- The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus' credentials.

B. The Demand for a Sign

- A sign could serve as evidence of divine authorization.

C. Jesus Answers on His Terms

- Jesus points them to His ultimate death and resurrection.

VI. JESUS IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS THE TRUE TEMPLE (vv.19-21)

A. "Destroy This Temple"

- John directs our attention beyond the Temple structure in Jerusalem to the person of Christ.

B. Their Misunderstanding

- They could not comprehend how a single man could rebuild the temple in three days.

C. Jesus as the Meeting Place Between God and Humanity

- He is the true meeting place where humanity encounters the living God, receives forgiveness, and experiences true worship.

VII. JESUS POINTS TO HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION (vv.19-22)

A. "Destroy"

- Death

B. "Raise"

- Resurrection

C. The Resurrection Vindicates His Authority

- An empty tomb

VIII. THE DISCIPLES UNDERSTAND LATER (vv.22)

A. Understanding Was Not Immediate

B. They Remembered

- They remembered the scripture (Psalms 69:9) and they remembered what Jesus said (John 2:19).

C. Their Faith Continued to Deepen

NOTES _____

WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT JESUS?

Feature	Sign 1: The Wedding at Cana (vv. 1–12)	Sign 2: The Temple Cleansing (vv. 13–22)
The Setting	A private, joyful, domestic celebration.	A public, intense, national religious center.
The Old System	6 stone water jars used for Jewish purification rituals.	The physical temple used for Jewish sacrificial rituals.
Jesus' Action	He replaces the water with new wine.	He replaces the physical building with His resurrected body.
The Revelation	Jesus is the provider of new joy and abundance.	Jesus is the provider of new life and direct access to God.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY: LIVING AS THE TEMPLE

➤ **Evaluating Our "Courtyards"**

The merchants in John 2 weren't intentionally trying to destroy worship; they were just letting worldly convenience, greed, and routine crowd out the sacred.

- *The Takeaway:* We must look at our own hearts and ask: What modern "distractions" or worldly priorities have we allowed to crowd out our intimate worship of God? Are we treating our relationship with God like a business transaction (seeking only what He can give us) rather than a true relationship with our Father?

➤ **Yielding to the Authority of the Son**

Jesus didn't ask permission to clean the Temple; He took over because He owned it.

- *The Takeaway:* If Christ is our Lord, He has total jurisdiction over our lives. We cannot wall off areas of our finances, relationships, or private habits and tell Him, "*You don't have the right to change this.*" True discipleship means opening every room of our hearts and allowing Him to flip over the tables of anything that doesn't honor God.

➤ **Encountering God Through Christ, Not Buildings**

Because Jesus is the true Temple, our access to God is no longer tied to a specific physical location, a church building, or an earthly ritual.

- *The Takeaway:* Through Christ, we have 24/7 direct access to the presence of God. We are called to worship Him "in spirit and in truth." Furthermore, because the Holy Spirit now dwells *in us* (1 Corinthians 6:19), we carry the presence of God into our workplaces, families, and communities every single day.

➤ **Trusting the Timing of Spiritual Clarity**

The disciples spent years in confusion before the Resurrection finally made everything click.

- *The Takeaway:* If you are currently walking through a season of spiritual confusion, doubt, or unanswered questions, be patient. God often reveals His grand design in retrospect. Keep walking faithfully, trusting that the same Holy Spirit who brought clarity to the disciples will eventually bring understanding and depth to your own faith.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Examining the Inner Courtyard: In John 2, good religious routines had slowly drifted into commercial distraction and greed.

- ✓ What subtle habits, worldly priorities, or modern conveniences have begun crowding out your quiet, authentic devotion to God?

2. Submitting to Christ's Authority: Jesus cleansed the Temple with the full authority of the Son of God, not asking for human permission.

- ✓ Is there an area of your life, such as finances, career, speech, or private habits, where you are resisting letting Jesus overturn the tables?

3. Motivations in Worship: The merchants treated the Temple as a marketplace for personal gain.

- ✓ Do you ever approach God with a transactional mindset (focusing on what He can give you) rather than relating to Him simply as your Father?

4. Living as a Temple: Because Jesus is the true Temple, His Holy Spirit now lives in believers (1 Corinthians 6:19).

- ✓ How does knowing that your body is a dwelling place for God change how you carry yourself at work, at home, and in public this week?

5. Walking Through Confusion: The disciples did not understand Jesus' words until after the Resurrection.

- ✓ Are you currently facing a confusing situation or an unanswered prayer where you need to trust God's timing instead of demanding an immediate explanation?