

The Gospel According to John “Lord of the Temple”

John 2:12-25



John 2:12

After this He went down to Capernaum,
He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples;
and they stayed there a few days.

John 2:13-17

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for Your house will consume me.*"

John 2:18-22

The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 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.”

John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Main Idea

Jesus' bold act of clearing the temple was a declaration of His identity and a demand for true belief.

A transitional statement:

John 2:12

After this He went down to Capernaum,
He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples;
and they stayed there a few days.

...Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple
those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves,
and the money changers seated at their tables.
And He...drove them all out of the temple...

Lord of the Temple

Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?



Why cleanse the temple?

Because the condition of worship
in Jerusalem required it.

What was happening in the place of worship?

John 2:14

He found in the temple those
who were selling oxen and sheep and doves,
and the money changers seated at their tables.

Was there a background for this?

Deuteronomy 14:24-26

If the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where the LORD your God chooses to set His name is too far away from you...then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. You may spend the money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.

Was there a background for this?

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So what was the problem?

John 2:14-16

He found **in the temple** those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables...and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.”

John 2:14-16

He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables...and to those who were selling the doves He said,

“Take these things away; **stop making**

My Father’s house a place of business.”

The merchants were not there to facilitate worship as the Law prescribed; they were there to turn a profit, and they could only have been there by agreement with the rulers.

What does this say about the condition of their worship?

What did Jesus know about them?

Isaiah 1:10-12

Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah.

“What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD.

“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;

And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.

When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?

What did Jesus know about them?

Isaiah 1:13-15

Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.

New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies —
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.
I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts,
They have become a burden to Me;
I am weary of bearing them.

So when you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

What did Jesus know about them?

Isaiah 1:16-17

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.

Cease to do evil, Learn to do good;

Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

What did Jesus know about them?

Isaiah 1:21-23

How the faithful city has become a harlot,
She who was full of justice!

Righteousness once lodged in her, but now murderers.
Your silver has become dross, Your drink diluted with water.
Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves;
Everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards.
They do not defend the orphan,
Nor does the widow's plea come before them.

Why cleanse the temple?

Because the condition of worship in Jerusalem required it.

To identify Himself as the Lord
of the temple.

John 2:18

The Jews then said to Him,
“What sign do You show us as your authority
for doing these things?”

Who are you claiming to be that you
think you have the right to do this?

Who was Jesus claiming to be?

Malachi 3:1-4

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger,
and he will clear the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
will suddenly come to His temple;
and the messenger of the covenant,
in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,”
says the LORD of hosts.

John the Baptist

Malachi 3:1-4

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And the Lord, whom you seek,
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Jesus is the Lord of the temple!

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Jesus is the Messenger of the covenant!

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and the messenger of the covenant,

in whom you delight, behold, **He is coming,**
says the LORD of hosts.

John the Baptist had cleared the way;
and now Jesus, Lord of the temple,
had come to cleanse it and to
inaugurate the New Covenant.

Malachi 3:1-4

But who can endure the day of His coming?

And who can stand when He appears?

For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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to the LORD** as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lord of the Temple

Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?

Why did Jesus answer
the Pharisees as He did?



John 2:18-19

The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?”

Jesus answered them,
“Destroy this temple, and in three days
I will raise it up.”

Why this answer?

His proposal would have been
a profound sign indeed!

His proposal to them...

John 2:19 and 20

“Destroy this temple, and in three days
I will raise it up.”

The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this
temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

Rebuilding the temple in three
days would certainly have
validated Jesus' authority!

Why this answer?

That would have been a profound sign indeed!

He was identifying Himself with the temple, the earthly dwelling of God.

John 2:19

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But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Remember the context...

John 2:14

And the Word became flesh, **and tabernacled among us**,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Jesus was the enfleshed dwelling
of God; He was the living temple!**

Why this answer?

That would have been a profound sign indeed!

He was identifying Himself as the temple, the earthly dwelling of God.

He was identifying Himself as both *the*
sacrifice *and* the place of sacrifice.

John 2:19-21

“Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

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.

John 2:19-21

“Destroy this temple,
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John 2:19-21

“Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.”
The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build
this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

But **He was speaking of the sanctuary
of His body.**

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.

The sanctuary was the inner court of the temple where the ark of God's presence was kept.

Jesus identified His body as the inner court of God's presence.

John 2:19-21

“Destroy this sanctuary,
and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build
this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

But **He was speaking of the sanctuary
of His body.**

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.

But He also had His death in mind!

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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.**

Jesus had told them of His death

John 12:32-33

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all men to Myself.”

But He was saying this to indicate the kind
of death by which He was to die.

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will draw all men to Myself.”

But **He was saying this to indicate** the kind
of **death** by which He was to die.

Remember the sanctuary?

John 2:19

“Destroy this sanctuary,

and in three days I will raise it up.”

The sanctuary was the inner court of the temple where the high priest offered the sacrificial lamb on the Day of Atonement.

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

**Jesus was both the sanctuary
and the sacrifice!**

But even more...

Hebrews 7:26-27

For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest,
holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners
and exalted above the heavens;
who does not need daily, like those high priests,
to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins
and then for the sins of the people,
because this He did once for all
when He offered up Himself.

He is our High Priest!

Hebrews 7:26-27

For **it was fitting for us to have
such a high priest,**

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He is the Sacrifice!

Hebrews 7:26-27

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and exalted above the heavens;
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when He offered up Himself.

Lord of the Temple

Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?

Why did Jesus answer the Pharisees as He did?

Why wouldn't Jesus entrust
Himself to men?



John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover,
during the feast, many believed in His name,
observing His signs which He was doing.

But **Jesus**, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself
to them**, for He knew all men, and because
He did not need anyone to testify concerning man,
for He Himself knew what was in man.

Why not entrust Himself?

He knew the *duplicity* of men.

John 2:23-25

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But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

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during the feast, many believed in His name,
observing His signs which He was doing.

But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself

to them, **for He knew all men**, and because

He did not need anyone to testify concerning man,
for He Himself knew what was in man.

What did He know?

John 2:23-25

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during the feast, many believed in His name,
observing His signs which He was doing.
But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself

to them, **for He knew all men**, and because

He did not need anyone to testify concerning man,
for He Himself knew what was in man.

He knew their fickle minds!

John 8:31-32

So Jesus was saying to those Jews
who had believed Him,
“If you continue in My word,
then you are truly disciples of Mine;
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free.”

He knew their fickle minds!

John 8:31-32

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**“If you continue in My word,
then you are truly disciples of Mine;**

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and the truth will make you free.”

There is a kind of belief that is
double-minded and self-deluding.
It assents but does not submit.

Double-minded Belief

James 4:8-10

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

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James 4:8-10

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts,**
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Self-Deluding Belief

James 1:22

But prove yourselves doers of the word,
and not merely hearers **who delude themselves.**

Is your faith in Jesus a pure faith,
a single-minded faith, an obedient faith?

Romans 1:5

...we have received grace and apostleship
to bring about **the *obedience of faith***
among all the Gentiles for His name's sake.

Why not entrust Himself?

He knew the duplicity of men.

He knew the *depravity* of man.

John 2:24-25

But **Jesus**, on His part, **was not entrusting Himself to them**, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

John 2:24-25

But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself

to them, for He knew all men, and **because**

**He did not need anyone to testify
concerning man,**

for He Himself knew what was in man.

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to them, for He knew all men, and because
He did not need anyone to testify concerning man,

for He Himself knew what was in man.

What did He know was in man?

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Jesus knew...

the depth of human corruption,

the totality of man's depravity,

the need for a new creation!

John 3:1 and 3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees,
named Nicodemus...

Jesus...said to him,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Concluding Questions

Have you believed in Jesus as the only one who can purify your worship?

Have you believed in Jesus by assenting to Him or by *submitting* to Him?

Have you received Jesus as **your LORD**, having given over to Him *all authority*?