

## Cleansing the Temple

*John 2:13 - 25*

**Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 7:1 - 15**

**Background Scripture: John 2:13 - 25**

**[see also Matthew 21:12 – 17; Mark 11:15 – 19; Luke 19:45 - 48]**

**LESSON AIMS:** the students will:

- **Identify** Jesus' reason for "cleaning" the Temple
- **Explain** the relationship between being "zealous" and being "jealous"
- **Make a plan** to clean himself or herself of one unholy practice, considering that his or her body is God's new covenant temple [see 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17 in lesson 10]

**INTRODUCTION:** The Passover was the greatest of all of the Jewish feasts. The Law required every adult male Jew who lived within 15 miles of Jerusalem to attend the Passover. At this time, every Jew older than nineteen years old had to pay a Temple tax. The money changers' role was acceptable except that they cheated the people with excessive fees.

**KEY VERSE:**     *<sup>16</sup> And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*                      *John 2:16*

### **LESSON:**

Jesus' Actions

John 2:13 - 17

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Jesus' Announcement

verses 18 - 22

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**Summary:** The priests - - God's representatives - - who oversaw the Temple, allowed God's house to become a place where poor travelers could be taken advantage of. Jesus cleansed the Temple of that which defiled and dishonored God. He disrupted the Temple system during the most significant feasts of the year - - the Passover - - so that neither sacrifice nor tithes could be offered that day. The service, which was meant to help the travelers, had lost its focus, which was to be a time of worship. Jesus would not allow these wrong intentions to interfere with worship.

### Questions:

1. *How should a believer respond when they confront an unjust situation?*
2. *Has more reflection helped you notice God's hand in a difficult situation? When?*
3. *How would you respond if someone were to ask what you consider a miracle or sign from God?*

## Cleansing the Temple

### John 2:13 - 25

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
Mon., July 14 <sup>th</sup>	God Gathers Outcasts to the Temple	Isaiah 56
Tue., July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer and Holiness	1 Timothy 2:1 - 8
Wed., July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Guard Your Steps in God's House	Ecclesiastes 5:1 - 7
Thurs., July 17 <sup>th</sup>	God Doesn't Live in Human Shrines	Acts 17:22 - 34
Fri., July 18 <sup>th</sup>	False Security	Jeremiah 7:1 - 15
Sat., July 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Messenger's Arrival	Malachi 3:1 - 6
Sun., June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Zeal for God's House	John 2:13 - 25