

John 2:13-22 (NIV)

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."^[a]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon for March 3, 2024: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

We are now in the third week of our Lenten season, preparing and readying ourselves for the holy celebration of Easter. This week's Scripture takes us to another holy season, the season of Passover, where Jesus, his disciples and the Jewish people are preparing and readying themselves for that celebration.

- What vital pieces of sacrificial worship are mentioned in this passage? Why are these pieces used to worship God? How does sacrificial worship cultivate their relationship with God? (See *Leviticus 1-7*. To learn more, join us in reading our Lenten devotional "Altar'd" by Susan O. Kent.)
- Jesus is disturbed, taking action against this common temple scene and practices that provided access to vital worship elements. Does Jesus' intentional actions and words surprise you? Why or why not? How would these actions be perceived by those present at that moment?
- In verse 18, the Jews questioned Jesus about his actions. For them, their temple was the sign of God's presence with his people, where atonement and being made right with God was made possible through the sacrificial system. Describe Jesus' prophetic response to their question. What temple was Jesus speaking of in his response? What all does the destruction and raising of this temple accomplish?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts, or questions you may have.

ACT ... *responding to & applying what we know.*

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:19-20, Paul reminds us that we — God's people — are now God's temple. If Jesus found it necessary to clear and cleanse the temple in his day, perhaps he may need to do the same in our temple.

- What does this mean for us today? What might prohibit God's presence and work in someone's life?
- Does anything remain in your life that Jesus would overturn or drive out when he entered your temple? How can we dedicate or re-dedicate our temple to be a clean and holy space, suitable to dwell with the Father?

BE ... living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.

Pastor Mark said, "Jesus is the place where God lives ... the sign of God's holy presence ... the one who makes atonement for the forgiveness of sins ...restores our relationship with God ... the center of all worship."

MAKE TIME for quiet reflection and prayer this week. Is the center of your worship Jesus? Why or why not? Where or what is the Holy Spirit asking you to surrender to God so your worship may be pleasing to him?

GIVE THANKS to God for being faithful and hearing you when you pray. Surrender to the Spirit's leading and KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

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