

John 2:12-25 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To let Jesus purify our worship of God.

Icebreaker Suggestion: What is the most beautiful church you have been in?

Transition: The temple at the time of Jesus was supposed to be a place where people could worship and connect with God. This week, we see how the temple had become corrupted to where people were no longer connecting with God there. The temple had become a marketplace. Jesus is not content to let people continue with this corrupted worship, nor is he content to let us.

Discussion

Read John 2:12-16 out loud.

1. Jesus acts violently here in this passage. How might this passage challenge our view of Jesus? How might anger and love hold together in the person of Jesus?
2. Jesus cleanses the temple. Their worship was corrupt. What might God find lacking in our own worship of God? How might we fall into the mechanical marketplace routine in our worship that Dave described?

Read John 2:17 out loud.

3. John makes an aside that the disciples later understood the fuller significance of these acts as a fulfillment of what the Old Testament foretold the Messiah would be like. "Zeal for your house consumes me" is a quotation of Psalm 69:9. This psalm is written by David in a time where he is suffering a lot of adversity from his own people for trying to do the right thing in God's eyes, likely storing up supplies for his son to build the temple. In this way, Jesus, the Son of David, is showing he is in the likeness of David. Why does doing what's right in God's eyes sometimes create adversity from surprising places?

Read John 2:18-22 out loud.

John 1:19-51 Sermon-Based Discussion

4. Why is the resurrection the ultimate proof of authority that Jesus was right? What do you find convincing as proof that Jesus really did rise from the dead?
5. Jesus is also declaring himself to be greater than the temple. How is Jesus greater than the Old Testament temple?

Read John 2:23-25

6. In the previous verses, the religious leaders are skeptical and demand a sign though it seems that Jesus had been doing signs in Jerusalem. Here even the people that believe that Jesus is the Messiah have a defective faith. Perhaps they wanted Jesus to be a political/military messiah that would deliver them from Roman occupation. Jesus doesn't allow for them to shape him into who they want him to be, but asks that we allow him to make us into who he wants us to be. The reasoning is that he knows what is in the heart of man. Why is that a reason to trust Jesus?

Summary Questions

7. Dave said "If your Jesus isn't moving the furniture around and sometimes even making a painful whip to get rid of stuff in your life, you don't have the real Jesus." Where do you feel Jesus trying to rearrange parts of your life?

Sharing and Prayer Time

Consider breaking up into smaller groups to pray for each other in light of what was shared.