

# Gospel of John (lesson 8)

John 2:13 - 25

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Jesus kept the Passover at Jerusalem yearly, ever since he was twelve years old, in obedience to the law. Now that he has entered his public ministry, he starts to assert his authority at this Passover.

14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

This is not the first time Jesus saw the selling and exchanging of money. It has been going on his entire life. The religious leaders who were selling animals for sacrifice were making a lot of money from the devout believers who could not bring their own animals. The money changing was very lucrative as the faithful came from all over the world to observe Passover.

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!”**

So much for the portrayal of Jesus as a meek and mild man. This is a glimpse of his anger at injustice and the defilement of God's temple. There is no reverence for God when you use the required observances as an opportunity for personal gain. The religious leaders had a racket and it was in plain sight. Nobody stood up to them.

17 His disciples remembered that it is written: **“Zeal for your house will consume me.”**[Psalm 69:9]

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<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

You always get criticized for doing the right thing. One man with a homemade whip of cords drove all of the sellers and money changers out. Where were the Temple guards? Nobody stopped him because he was God incarnate, and it truly was his Father's house.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**”

The signs from God are never what we want. They are not immediate, but when we do get to see the sign, it is spectacular. Jesus is talking about his resurrection that will occur in three years.

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> 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.

The disciples had more revelation of Jesus than the crowd, but they still did not receive the full revelation until after the resurrection.

<sup>23</sup> Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Jesus did not rely on the religious leaders, nor the faithful that journeyed to observe Passover. Jesus knew that they would turn on him before they would receive the sign of his resurrection.