

JESUS IS THE CLEANSER

"WHO IS JESUS?" FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 25, January 28

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"On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity."

ZECHARIAH 13:1

It was almost time for the Passover, so Jesus and his disciples went up to Jerusalem. They were not alone. Many Jews went to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, remembering how God delivered them from Egypt. High on the hill of Jerusalem stood the temple. It was the house of God, and for Jesus, it was his Father's house, the copy and shadow of his heavenly home here on earth. Imagine how Jesus felt as he walked up to his Father's house.

But oh, the sight he found there! In the temple courts

Jesus saw men selling cattle, sheep, and doves. More men sat at tables exchanging money. It was like a giant flea market. Instead of praying and worshiping, people were buying and selling to make a profit! This outer court of the temple was supposed to be the area where Gentiles could come to pray, but with everything going on, how could they? What a mess!

Jesus did not want his Father's house to be treated as a marketplace, so he made a whip out of cords, and he drove the sellers and their animals out. He overturned the tables of the money changers and scattered their

coins. Imagine the surprise, the yelling of angry sellers, the mooing of the cattle, and the bleating of the sheep.

“Get these out of here!” he said. “Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” (John 2:16).

The disciples, who knew their Scriptures well, remembered the words of David the psalmist, “Zeal for your house will consume me” (2:17). Here was another clue for them that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus, who loved his Father’s house, was cleaning it up.

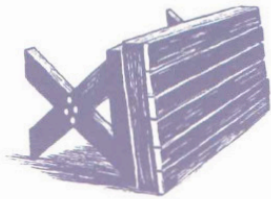
The Jews were probably startled, outraged, and confused. Who was this man, and what did he think he was doing? They asked him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” (2:18).

But Jesus didn’t give them a miraculous sign. At least not one they would be able to make sense of yet. He said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days” (2:19).

What? It had taken forty-six years to build the temple! How could one man build it in three days?

But Jesus wasn’t talking about the physical temple. He was talking about himself. His body was the temple. They would kill him, and three days later, he would rise again.

Jesus was on a cleansing mission. The cleansing of the temple was needed for sure, but his ultimate mission was to cleanse hearts. When his body, his temple, was crucified, our hearts were made clean and pure through the washing of his blood. And now we can be a temple for his Spirit to dwell.



REFLECT

1. Why do you think Jesus reacted the way he did?
Is it okay for us to be angry about certain things?
2. Jesus cleaned the temple before Passover, and meanwhile the Jewish people were cleaning all the yeast out of their houses to prepare for Passover. What did yeast represent, and how might this relate to our story? See 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.
3. How does Jesus clean us and make us pure?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How can we keep God’s temple clean?

BIBLE REFERENCE JOHN 2:12-22

KEY VERSE ZECHARIAH 13:1