

Temple Turnover

Pastors Jeff Bucknam, Jeff Thompson, Tommy Creutz | John 2:12–25

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion, or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria.*



Ice Breaker

When's the last time you wanted to flip a table? In retrospect, do you think your frustration was justifiable?

Understanding the Text in Context

- Why was the Temple in Jerusalem – a place of meeting with the One True God – so important? Why was Passover so significant?
- What made Jesus angry? Why was Psalm 69:9 an appropriate text? Why do people focus on the “duty” of worship to the neglect of the “delight” of worship?
- In this text, how is Jesus redefining “Temple” to ultimately fulfill its function (to meet with

God)?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

How did the cleansing of the temple fit into the mission of Jesus on His path to the cross? How is the cleansing of the temple similar to what God wants to do in our hearts, to purify our worship of Him and our love for Him?

How does Jesus' promise to "raise up" the Temple of His body give the disciples (and us) all the more confidence to believe the Scripture and Jesus' word (verses 18-22)?

Living Out the Truth

Throughout this passage, we are reminded of the authority of Jesus and how His authority changes our lives. What are some areas in your life where you are resisting His authority, and why? What would it look like to take a step of submission today?

Re-read John 2:23-25. This passage brings us back to the theme of belief that we have been unpacking over the past several weeks. What are the key differences between real and 'bogus' belief? What aspects of the character of God do you struggle to believe? Where do you find yourself faltering in your belief? What practical steps can you take to deepen your faith in Jesus this week? Pray for one another.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Talk with your kids about Jesus' righteous anger in seeing sin and the mistreatment of God's holy place. Talk about the difference between the kind of justified anger that Jesus had and the frequently unjustified anger that we experience when the future is so unclear to us. How can what we know about Jesus help us? Pray together.

Further Study

- From this text: "[The Temple\(s\) Filled with God's Presence](#)," and "[What Is the Role of the Temple in the Bible's Story of Exile & Return?](#)" and "[Did Jesus have brothers and sisters \(siblings\)?](#)"
- Resurrection Sunday is a time of reflection. Implications abound:
- Meditate on "[10 Passages to Read on Easter](#)." Watch "[A Special Easter Video from 'The Biggest Story'](#)." For an excellent book: "[The Hope of the Resurrection: How Jesus's Defeat of Death Changes Everything](#)."

- Jesus' Resurrection also prompts many questions: Watch a 5-minute video from apologist, Wes Huff, that answers the question: "[Was the Tomb Really Empty?](#)" Listen to a 2-hour debate: "[William Lane Craig vs. Bart Ehrman - Is There Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus?](#)" Know "[4 Points of Evidence for the Resurrection](#)"
- At all times, "[Fix Your Hope on Easter Truth.](#)"
- Looking ahead to next week's Sermon and Text:
- Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 3:1-21: "Coming at Dark," "Look and Live," and "Born Again."