

Jesus Gets Angry in the Temple

John 2.12-22

In the wedding miracle in Cana, Jesus showed grace at a social event. In the cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem, He shows us truth at a religious event. We find out that God gets angry, discover what makes Him upset, and uncover an important truth for our lives.

- Does God get angry? Should we?

Anger is not wrong...but beware!

Why are there so many 'Christian wimps'?

- What made Jesus angry? Does it make us angry?

All sin is sin; but perverting worship excites God's anger

Too many quacks, and an environment of capitulation

- A temple destroyed and raised, Jesus, and You

Jesus' 'temple sign' points to His death and resurrection

By His death and resurrection, our 'temple' is cleansed



1. There are three parallel accounts of Jesus 'cleansing the temple' in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in the final week before His crucifixion. Critics suggest that Jesus cleansed the temple just once, but John inserted it here for literary purposes. Read Matt. 21.12-16, Mark 11.15-18, and Luke 19.45-46. Besides occurring at the end of Jesus' ministry instead of the beginning, what is different about the two events? Is there any reason Jesus wouldn't cleanse the temple at the beginning of His ministry, and again at the end?
2. The term "money changers in the temple" has become synonymous today with religious fakes who 'fleece the flock' with their financial shenanigans. Do some research on the 'business side' of the temple in Jesus' day. While it served a valid purpose "on paper," why did Jesus oppose it so virulently? Did this problem continue in the New Testament church (1 Tim. 6.5-10; 2 Tim. 3.2; Heb. 13.5; Jude 11)? Is it still a problem today?
3. In modern society, 'tolerance' has been so embraced as a virtue that opposing almost any sin is frowned on. As a result, many Christians feel that showing anger at deceit and wickedness is wrong. Did God get angry in the Old Testament? In addition to cleansing the temple, did Jesus get angry? What does the New Testament say about anger? See Eph. 4.26. What is the command? What is the restriction? When is it right to be angry? Why do you think God gives this instruction?
4. When Jesus cleansed the temple, He performed a Messianic action, as His disciples (v17; see Ps. 69.9) and the Jewish religious leaders recognized. When they asked Him for a sign to validate His claims, He replied, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." John informs us that He was talking about "the temple of His body" (21), something they only realized after His resurrection (22). How does Jesus cleansing the temple (the place designated for worship of God) and the death-and-resurrection of "the temple of His body" fit together? Our bodies are also called a "temple" (1 Cor. 6.19); what application might we draw from Jesus' death and resurrection, and the cleansing of our "temple"?