

The Gospel of John

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

John 2:13-22

Often people picture Christ as a very meek pacifist. He is seen as effeminate and weak physically. The Bible shows a very different picture of Christ. He was a carpenter who worked hard with His hands. Strong men were attracted to Him, such as fisherman. One episode in His life that shatters the modern false conception of Christ's demeanor and life is His cleansing of the Temple.

The Setting

- Time
 - About six months into Christ's ministry.
 - Since about half of John is the last week, the 3½ years of ministry speed by.
- The Passover Feast
 - All men were to go to Jerusalem three times a year for feasts.
 - Feast of Passover (15th of Nisan – March or April)
 - Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Passover)
 - Feast of Tabernacles (15th of Tishrei – September or October)
 - Observing the Feast (Leviticus 23:5)
 - A spotless lamb was taken and offered as a sacrifice.
 - All leaven was put out of the house.
 - Lamb was eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
- The Temple
 - Herod's Temple
 - Herod the Great's massive construction project was still on going.
 - It was finished just before Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70.
 - Moneychangers and merchants
 - A thriving business has developed in the outer parts of the Temple.
 - Only “approved money” could be used for official purposes.
 - Moneychangers exchanged money (for a fee of about 11%).
 - Since people traveled so far, bringing sacrifices was hard.
 - Merchants started selling animals at the Temple.

The Story

- Christ drives out the moneychangers – vs. 14-15
 - A sign of authority
 - Used a small whip, probably for driving the animals.
- Motivation – purify worship at Temple – vs. 16

- Fulfillment of prophesy (Psalm 69:9) – vs. 17
- Jews asked what sign this was for – they always wanted as sign – vs.18
- Jesus prophesies His death and resurrection – vs. 19
 - Jesus constantly says the sign is – three days in grave – Matthew 12:39
- The Jews did not see the symbolism – vs. 20-21
- The disciples did not get it until after the resurrection – vs. 22
- The further results – vs. 23-25
 - The multitudes gathered for the feast flocked to Christ – vs. 23
 - The multitude would probably do something rash – vs. 24
 - It was not for man's timing, but God's – vs.25
 - If Christ were to ride popularity into earthly power, this was a great opportunity.