

The Zeal of the Lord on Public Display

John 2:12-25

The passage before us this morning paints for us a vivid picture of Jesus, and it is one that does not fit into many people's idea of who Jesus is. Our culture would want us to only see the meek and gentle Jesus. Is Jesus meek and gentle? Yes. Does that mean that He is passive toward the things of God? No.

- **The context:** John is very detailed concerning the Jewish feasts, especially Passover. John records three Passovers in his gospel. The first is in our text (2:13); the second is recorded in (6:4); and the third is in (12:1).
- **The corruption of religion. (12 – 14)** Jesus enters into Jerusalem with His family and His disciples during the time of the Passover and was indignant and outraged at what was going on at the Temple.
 - ✓ **Animal sacrifices were being sold at inflated prices.**
 - ✓ **Currency was being exchanged at an unfair rate.**
 - ✓ **People were being exploited in the name of religion!**
- **The zeal of the Lord. (15-17)** This event reveals much to us concerning the Lord's zeal for worship and the holiness of God. Jesus is not okay with man polluting the holy things of God, such as worship! Jesus is filled with righteous indignation at the exploitation of worship. Worship had become a means of greed and covetousness.

Zeal has at its root a *right kind of jealousy*. **Psalm 69:9 says, "For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me."**

(Deut. 4:23-24, Nahum 1:2, Zec. 1:14, Ezek. 5:13 & Is. 9:6-7)

- **The holiness of God. (16 – 17)** Those that made merchandise of God's house had lost sight of His holiness. Many people in our society today (even those in the religious world) have lost sight of God's holiness! True worship will always involve an awareness of God's glory and holiness.

A.W. Pink, "God is inflexibly righteous, as well as, infinitely gracious." Holy and yet merciful!

(Psalm 96:9 & 1 Chronicles 16:29)

- **The sign of the resurrection. (18-25)** There were differing responses to our Lord's action:
 - ✓ The disciples remembered the Scripture.
 - ✓ The Jews wanted some *sign* of validation.
 - ✓ Many expressed a spurious faith. Signs alone do not bring genuine saving faith!

Application: Is your faith a genuine saving faith?

Are you living with the reality that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Is your worship of God based upon His holiness? Is it self-serving or God-honoring?

