

# JOHN

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

## JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

John 2:13–25

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### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 14:24–26 | Hebrews 10:19–23 | Revelation 21:22–23

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.8.26

### SUMMARY

The Old Testament required Jews to observe the Passover every year, observing it in Jerusalem rather than in their own towns (Deuteronomy 16:1–6). However, a provision was made to bring money to purchase the items for sacrifice when the distance traveled was long (Deuteronomy 14:24–26). As a result, marketplaces sprang up in the temple that took advantage of Jews who traveled a long distance. This allowance, intended to assist God’s people in observing Passover and worshipping God, instead occupied space in the temple and hindered worship. The temple was the house of the Lord, yet it was treated as a marketplace. Jesus’ response was to drive out the animals and money-changers, to which the Jews demanded a sign, likely a request to understand his prophetic credentials that allowed him to take such an action. Jesus responded not with a sign, but with a prophetic word about his own life. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). This answer confounded the Jews as well as Jesus’ disciples. His disciples only understood Jesus’ true meaning of the temple of his body after he had been crucified and raised from the dead. The temple curtain was torn in two at Jesus’ death, thereby giving believers access to God through Jesus’ blood (Hebrews 10:19–20). There is no longer a need for a physical temple because Jesus is the true temple (Revelation 21:22).

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 2:13–25.

As you worship God, whether in the privacy of your own home or in public worship at church, is there any part of your preparation or your actions that hinders your ability to worship? Is there something that began as a good thing, such as the Jews allowing money to be exchanged for sacrifices in Jesus’ time, that has become a distraction?

What are some benefits that we as Christians living after Christ’s resurrection are able to enjoy that were different in Old Testament times? (see Hebrews 10:19–23)

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.