

Adonai, Yahweh, Jehovah, The One True God, The God of Israel, The Lord of Hosts, The King of Israel, The One and Only True God, The Righteous Word of God Almighty, The Sacrificial Lamb, The Lion of the

**The Life and Times of  
Jesus Christ**

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the beginning and the ending, the first and the last,  
The Only Real, Living and Breathing God, He Who Is,  
He Who Was, and He Who Will Be Forever, Abba  
Father, Our Creator, Our God, Our Soul's Beloved, God

# **Part 12**

## **Jesus Purifies the Temple in Preparation for the Passover**

**Matthew**

**Mark**

**Luke**

**John**

**Matthew 21:12-17**

**Mark 11:15-18**

**Luke 19:45-48**

**John 2:13-22**

# John 2:13

It was nearly time for the Jewish  
Passover celebration, so Jesus went  
to Jerusalem.

# John 2:14

In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

# John 2:15

Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

# John 2:16

Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”



# John 2:17

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures:  
“Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

# John 2:18

But the Jewish leaders demanded,  
“What are you doing? If God gave  
you authority to do this, show us a  
miraculous sign to prove it.”

# John 2:19

**“All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy  
this temple, and in three days  
I will raise it up.”**

# John 2:20

**“What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?”**

# John 2:21

**But when Jesus said “this temple,”  
he meant his own body.**

# John 2:22

After he was raised from the dead,  
his disciples remembered he had  
said this, and they believed both the  
Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

# **Part 12**

## **Jesus Purifies the Temple in Preparation for the Passover**

# Principle #1

**Jesus' radical actions in His cleansing of the Temple were not simply intended to be dramatic and provocative; they were a declaration of war! It was the announcement of God's spiritual revolution!**



**Background of the Text**

# **Another Difference**

**The synoptic gospels place this particular event of the purification of the temple at the end of Jesus' ministry, while the gospel of John introduces this event at the beginning of His ministry.**

# **Another Difference**

**For the synoptic gospels, this event becomes an important cause that aggressively invigorates the religious leaders' opposition to Jesus. That is why the accounts of Mark 11:18 and Luke 19:47 also say:**

# **Mark 11:18a**

**When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him.**

# **Luke 19:47**

**After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him.**

# **Another Difference**

**However, according John's gospel's focus, this event served as a crucial reason for the launch of Jesus' public ministry in Judea.**

# **Another Difference**

**As a result, the main aggravating reason for the religious leaders' desire to kill Jesus in the gospel of John is the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1–57; and John 12:9–11).**

# John 11:53

So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death.



# John 12:9

When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.

# John 12:10

Then the leading priests decided  
to kill Lazarus, too,

# John 12:11

for it was because of him that many  
of the people had deserted them  
and believed in Jesus.

# The Unknowns

- **Could it be that the synoptic gospels and the gospel of John are telling us about the same one-time event?**
- **Was there only one time that Jesus purified the Temple in Jerusalem or were there two?**

# The Unknowns

- **What are we supposed to think and do with of all the similarities and all the differences found between the four gospels regarding this particular event?**

**Now that we know that the Holy Spirit empowered the four gospel writers to move and structure the teachings and events of Jesus' ministry in such a way so as to support God's various specific focuses and His various theological purposes, which He directly communicated to each of His servants,**

# **Focus and Think!**

- **Only Christ, God, and the eye-witnesses know all the details.**
- **Does not knowing the specific details about this event affect the Gospel message in any way?**
- **Keep the main thing the main thing!**

# Principle #1

**Jesus' radical actions in His cleansing of the Temple were not simply intended to be dramatic and provocative; they were a declaration of war! It was the announcement of God's spiritual revolution!**



# Principle #2

**Christ's true and powerful critique of the Jerusalem Temple was a mandate to return the temple to its original God intended use: intimacy and personal relationship with God, worship, prayer, instruction, and godly sacrifice.**

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# Principle #2

**Christ's true and powerful critique of the Jerusalem Temple was a mandate to return the temple to its original God intended use: intimacy and personal relationship with God, worship, prayer, instruction, and godly sacrifice.**

# The Temple

**The temple in Jerusalem was universally recognized as the official center of Jewish life, faith, government, judicial law, and taxes. It set the moral, religious, political, and national tone for the Jews.**

# The Temple

**Whoever controlled the Temple  
controlled the people and the  
leadership of the Jews.**



# Controlling the Temple

- **When Judas Maccabeus decided to try to overthrow the Greeks in the 2nd century BC, he knew that he first needed to capture the temple to win the hearts and support of the Jewish people.**

# Controlling the Temple

- **The Romans arrived to occupy the Promised land in 63 B.C. Under Pompey's conquest, they immediately recognized the need for a fortress in Jerusalem next to the temple.**

# Controlling the Temple

- **In the year 20 B.C. Herod the Great began a massive temple rebuilding program to try to appease his Jewish subjects, who despised him because he was an outsider (Herod was an Idumean).**

# Controlling the Temple

- Herod wanted the new temple to rival Solomon's. To ensure purity, a thousand priests were trained as stonemasons and architects.
- 18,000 men worked full time until the Temple was completed in 64 AD.

# Controlling the Temple

- **When the Zealots tried to overthrow Rome in AD 66, the Temple once again was chosen to be their fortress and banner, the rallying point of Judaism's fight for independence.**

# Principle #2

**Christ's true and powerful critique of the Jerusalem Temple was a mandate to return the temple to its original God intended use: intimacy and personal relationship with God, worship, prayer, instruction, and godly sacrifice.**

# Principle #3

**As we personally engage the written Word of God, it should be nearly impossible not to recognize that the global institution of the Church has become exactly like the Temple in Jerusalem in the days of Jesus.**

# Principle #4

**Many of us know, and many of us have known, that there are far too many things seriously wrong with the church of God – both as an institution of God and as the people of God.**



# John 2:18

But the Jewish leaders demanded,  
“What are you doing? If God gave  
you authority to do this, show us a  
miraculous sign to prove it.”

**It is interesting to note that when the Jewish leaders questioned Jesus about what He had done, none of them argued about the appropriateness of what Jesus had done. They only questioned His authority to do so.**

**In other words, even the religious leaders probably knew that Jesus was right. They probably knew that their services had been compromised. They probably knew that God was angry. They probably knew that they had defiled the house of the Lord.**

**Even though they had the power to do something about it, they all chose to do nothing; they all chose to maintain the status quo. And this is why God ultimately allowed the Temple to be destroyed, and nearly 2,000 years later, it remains destroyed.**

# Principle #4

**Many of us know, and many of us have known, that there are far too many things seriously wrong with the church of God – both as an institution of God and as the people of God.**

# Principle #5

**Too many of us, God's very own people, have wrongly allowed people like Herod to influence, strengthen, or rebuild the institution of the church in their image, when that is supposed to be God's job, and His alone!**

# Principle #6

**Jesus brought spiritual renewal to His people, to the faith, and to the Temple; but in doing so he made many of the things that God had instituted and ordained in the past obsolete. And He wants to do the same today!**

# Principle #7

**Our zeal (passion) for God, His family,  
and His house must become the only  
things that consume us.**



# John 2:17

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures:

“Passion for God’s house  
will consume me.”

**Jesus did not sacrifice His life in order for us to go to a church building or to participate in a church service or to become church members. He did not sacrifice Himself to save the institution of the church either.**

**He died to save His people!**

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