

Text: John 2:13-22 NAU (New American Standard, 1995 Version)



Saturday, 3/6 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/7 at 9:00

Third Sunday in Lent – 2021

Lenten Wednesdays: Service at 11 & 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: A growing number in our nation today have come to accept things that oppose the Almighty God and His Holy Word; some examples include ♦evolution, ♦abortion, ♦homosexuality, and ♦gender choice. **Since such things ARE the trend, what should we do? Join the trend OR speak and live God's truth?**

In today's gospel reading, Jesus' action was controversial – *thus likely to give rise to public disagreement*. Nevertheless, **Jesus took action to right what was wrong!** Now, for us – having been saved through Jesus, *let us be like Jesus!*

1. **Setting:** ¹³ **The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.** // Regarding the Passover:
 - a. Original Passover – *In Egypt when God passed over the homes that had lamb' blood on the doorframes.*
 - b. Passover celebration – *the annual meal to remember God's rescue of the people of Israel from Egypt.*

- c. Attendance – *All Jewish males, 12 years and older.* In Jesus' time, about 80,000 people lived in Jerusalem. At Passover time, *over 2 million people were in Jerusalem!*
2. **Problem:** ¹⁴ **And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.**
- a. Layout of the temple at the time of Jesus: There were four courts or areas:
- i. Court of the priests – just outside of the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place.
 - ii. Court of the Jewish men – just outside of the court of the priests.
 - iii. Court of the Jewish women – behind the court of the Jewish men.
 - iv. Court of the Gentiles – just outside of the courts of the Jewish men and the Jewish women.
- b. The selling and changing: That was all taking place *in the court of the Gentiles*. Doing business in that area completely disrupted the worship of the Gentiles. (We close our doors to the Narthex to avoid disruptions.)
3. **Solution:** ¹⁵ **And [Jesus] made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; ¹⁶ and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business."**
- a. What did Jesus make possible? When the ▶merchants, ▶animals, ▶money changers, and ▶customers were in the court of the Gentiles, *it was impossible for the*

Gentile believers to meditate on God's Word and pray. So, Jesus, by driving them out, restored that area of the temple to purpose for which it was intended!

b. What action should we take today?

- i. Let us make known to others that they are welcome to gather with us to ▶hear God's truth, ▶receive God's gift of eternal life, and ▶grow up in Jesus!
- ii. Since it is ONLY God's truth that sets people free, let us be zealous to ▶live and ▶share God's truth!
- iii. Since so many are trusting in what is false, *let us be bold to speak out against false teachings!*
- iv. Our nation is becoming more and more godless; for example, ▶our tax dollars are now paying for abortions in other countries¹ and ▶with the Equality Act,² *moving through congress now*, ▶first-third graders will choose to be boys or girls, ▶doctors will be forced into assisting with sex changes, and ▶boys will be allowed in girls' locker rooms and girls' sports. As our nation goes to hell, *let us be bold to say what is pleasing to God!*

4. **Maturity:** ¹⁷ **His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."** // How did they remember? **They had studied the Scriptures!** Then, *with the blessing of the Holy Spirit*, they ▶recognized Jesus' fulfillment of **Psalm 69:9** and ▶understood the events of their time. When we know God and His Word, *we will understand and be at peace!*

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-55844717>

² <https://www.heritage.org/gender/heritage-explains/the-equality-act;>
<https://billygraham.org/story/urgent-prayer-alert-from-franklin-graham-on-the-equality-act/>

5. **Sign:** ¹⁸ **The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?”**
- Proof:** ¹⁹ **Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”** // Jesus offered them an amazing sign, *yet they did not understand.*
 - Misunderstanding:** ²⁰ **The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”** // Solomon built the first temple about 900 BC; it was destroyed by the Babylonians about 600 BC. A lesser temple was built on the same site around 530 BC; then, *under Herod the Great*, it was significantly improved. Herod began his work about 20 BC; now – in our text, it is AD 26, 46 years later. *So, 46 years of work in three days seems quite impossible.*
6. **Clarification:** ²¹ **But [Jesus] was speaking of the temple of His body.** ²² **So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.** // Whatever God has promised, *no matter how impossible*, IT WILL HAPPEN! So let us ✦trust in God, ✦believe His Word, ✦cling to Christ, and ✦be at peace!

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Jesus is no *sissy* or *snowflake*!
- **Relevance** – It is wise to stand with God, *even when everyone else is standing against Him!*
- **Inspiration** – Jesus, *the God-Man warrior*, fought and won for us, *so let us live courageously for Him!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, ✦fill us, ✦guide us, ✦empower us, and ✦move us *to honor our Lord Jesus Christ!*