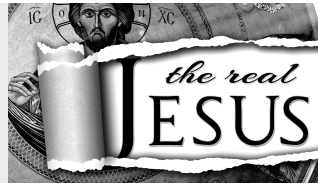


Temple Renovation

The Real Jesus- Part 7
Noah Largent 2/16/20



John 2:12-22 ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. ¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

1. God is not a killjoy.

It's not uncommon for people to picture God as an angry judge waiting to punish them. But consider that the first story John tells us about Jesus is his attendance at a wedding and his intervention, making sure the party kept on rolling. In the next story, we find Jesus and his family in Jerusalem for a week-long celebration. When Jesus is angry, it is directed primarily at the hypocrisy of the religious leaders. An honest reading of Jesus' life finds him freeing people from disease and inviting people to enjoy God in His kingdom for eternity!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Why does Jesus' audacious claim matter today?

Jesus states that the Temple is, "My Father's house", claiming authority over what transpires there. It wasn't just the commerce that got Jesus angry but the location. The temple courtyard was supposed to be a place of worship and the buying and selling set up there was interfering with people who came to worship. The religious leaders knew that Jesus was not just saying that he was close to God, but that *he was God himself!* In fact it was this very claim that posed a threat to the religious establishment and led to their desire to kill him. Just like the religious leaders of Jesus' day, we are faced with the same decision they had. Be honest, if Jesus really is God - it would be crazy to ignore Him! If he was a liar, we ought to denounce him! If he is a lunatic, we do more damage than good by giving him any attention. But if he is the King, what else could we do than give him all that we are?

Religious leaders recognize Jesus claims to be God: Jn. 5:18; 8:58; 10:33

Paul says Jesus is God: Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

3. Where would you direct Jesus to go "clean things up"?

There are many places in the world that we'd like to see Jesus come and bring some of this same kind of cleansing to. We should not ignore injustice when we see it. But the most important place you can invite Jesus to come to make changes is in - you.

Romans 12:1-3: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Notes:
