

CLEANING GOD'S HOUSE

JOHN 2:12-22

Here we see the zeal of the Lord for a completely clean house.

Every Jewish man was required to attend three annual feasts at the Holy City: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

DEUT. 16:16

- In His life and death, He fulfilled the Law so that, today, believers are not burdened by that *“yoke of bondage.”*

ACTS 15:10; GAL. 5:16-18

- But God desires for us to have personal holiness (**1 PETER 1:13-16**)—a clean house!

JESUS HATES DIRTY HOUSES

The temple was His Father's house, and He would not have the religious leaders pollute it with their money-making enterprises.

- When Jesus cleansed the temple, He “*declared war*” on the hypocritical religious leaders (**MATT. 23**), and this ultimately led to His death.
- Indeed, His zeal for God's house *did* eat Him up! Jesus revealed His zeal by *giving His life*.

JOHN 2:18-22; PSALM 69

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Often, during His ministry, the leaders asked Jesus to give them a sign; and He refused to do so, except for the sign of Jonah. **MATT. 12:39**

- The “*sign of Jonah*” is death, burial, and resurrection.
- In writing this gospel, John included a number of vivid pictures of the death of the Savior.
JOHN 1:29, 2:19, 3:14, 10:11-18, 12:20-25

THEY WORRIED ABOUT THE WRONG TEMPLE

When Jesus suggested that their precious building would be destroyed, their angry reaction was predictable.

- After all, if *His body* is the temple, then the Jewish temple would be needed no more.
- In this cryptic statement, our Lord actually predicted the end of the Jewish religious system: the Law, the feasts, and the festivals.

RIGHTEOUSNESS OR RETAIL

There were three areas of worship in the temple proper.

- Around these courts a vast open space had been arranged—called the *court of the Gentiles* because it was the only part of the sacred place (Gk. **IERON**) into which proselytes to Judaism were permitted to enter.
- The unclean Gentile ways had crept into the holy place, righteousness had become retail.

It was time for a complete house cleaning!

THE OXY-CLEAN OF JESUS

The Lord's action here revealed a four-fold relationship with the Holy sanctuary, and thereby the Holiness of God—His cleansing.

- (1) God's Holy Presence
- (2) God's Absolute Purity
- (3) God's Jealous Passion
- (4) God's Holy Power

Paul put it this way: It's Him in us. COL. 3:16-17

TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE

We might well ask, “What is the true temple?” (**1 COR. 3:16**) Well, that would be you and me!

- As the years passed, a tragic deterioration set in and the glory-filled house had become a marketplace.

If your temple needs cleaning, better that you do it voluntarily than the Lord do it for you!

- Better yet, don't get dirty in the first place.

1 PETER 1:15-16 . . . God wants a clean house!