



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 2:13-17

LESSON: JESUS CLEANSSES GOD'S HOUSE—January 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

JOHN 2:11-12

2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.—"Beginning" means first. The word used here for "miracles" (Gr *sēmeion*) means "signs." The results were really threefold:

1. The bridegroom's need and Mary's need was met.
2. The faith of the disciples was strengthened, and they believed because of what they witnessed; giving evidence that Jesus was truly the Messiah.
3. Christ's glory was revealed; His power to create was demonstrated.

Interestingly Moses' first, miracle was a plague—turning water into blood (Exo.7:19), which speaks of judgment. Our Lord's first miracle spoke of grace. The manifestation of His glory showed that He could change things and do so miraculously.

2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.— Capernaum could be reached in a days' journey from Cana (*known for the Wedding at Cana*). This was the home of James and John. Jesus, His mother, his brethren, and His disciples continued there until the appropriate time.

1. A common Activity—A Wedding.
2. An Uncommon Event—Changing Water to Wine.
3. A Special Manifestation—His Glory was Revealed to Common People.

LESSON: I. JOHN 2:13

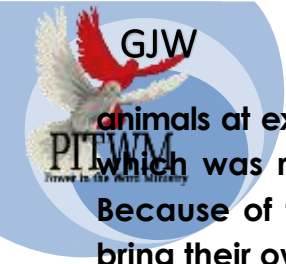
2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. The Law required every male Jew twelve years old and above to attend the Passover which took place yearly at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Passover was one day, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread lasted the rest of the week. The entire week commemorated the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt (Exo.12:1-13). Solomon built the first Temple almost 1,000 years earlier (949 B.C.), but his Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (2Kgs.25). The Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C., and Herod the Great enlarged and remodeled it. Jesus goes up to Jerusalem during these Feast times as did many Jewish families from all over the world.

II. JOHN 2:14-15

2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:— The Temple area was always crowded during Passover with thousands of people coming in. The religious leaders crowded it even further by allowing moneychangers and merchants to set up booths in the Court of the Gentiles. The Sanhedrin were permitting the selling of sacrificial

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animals at exorbitant prices, and permitting the changing of foreign currency into Jewish money, which was required for the temple tax. The Temple tax had to be paid in local currency. Because of the long journey, many could not bring their own animals. And some, who did bring their own animals, had them rejected for being imperfect. Thus, animal merchants did a flourishing business in the Temple courtyard. The price was much higher. They rationalized this practice as a convenience for the worshipers and as a way to make money for Temple upkeep. But the religious leaders didn't seem to care that the Court of the Gentiles was so full of merchants that foreigners found it difficult to worship. And worship was the main purpose for visiting the Temple. No wonder Jesus was angry!

2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;— Jesus was obviously angry at the merchants who exploited those who had come to God's house to worship. He begins to make a scourge; a whip of small cords and drove both the animals and the wicked merchants out of the temple. He overturns the tables and scatters the coins across the floor.

1. The scourge was a symbol of His righteous anger, of His right to be obeyed, and of His right to enforce obedience within the temple.
2. The Scourge was a symbol of the power and cleansing judgment of God—the kind of power and cleansing judgment that causes men to tremble before God (Phil.2:9-11).

There is a difference between uncontrolled rage and righteous indignation—yet both are called anger. It is right to be angry about injustice and sin. It is wrong to be angry over trivial personal offenses. Jesus has God's authority. We can be angry, but never use it to sin. God's Temple had to be restored for its proper use: "*Worship!*"

III. JOHN 2:16-17

2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. He went straight to the dove dealers. The Temple (church) can be abused by...

- forgetting what worship is all about.
- misusing the facilities and buildings of God's house.
- ignoring God's holiness and forgetting one's duty to reverence God.
- allowing questionable, non-worshipful activities.

Jesus had a unique relationship to God. He called God "*My Father.*" And He called the Temple, "*My Father's house.*" If it's God's house, it was to be a house of worship for all people! This included the Gentiles as well as the Jews. All people should be able to worship in quietness and peace within God's Temple. **Note** the Temple (the church) was to be a house of worship not a house of sacrifice, offerings, teaching, prophecy, or preaching. Everything done within the House of God is to lead to the worship of the Father, and communion with the Father. The temple is not to be used as a commercial center. It is not to be a place for buying and selling, marketing and retailing, stealing and cheating. It is not to be profaned. It is a place of worship. A man either believes Jesus is the Son of God, and He is over the Temple of God or else he believes neither.



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2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten

me up. The disciples recalled; remembered a specific scripture written by David (Ps.69:9) as they witnessed the response of Jesus' actions toward those who had dishonored God's house!

- David's zeal can be seen as a foreshadowing of Christ's own passion for the purity and sanctity of worship.
- David's zeal drives him to put God's honor first (Ps.132:4-5), for he had a heart for God.
- Jesus' zeal caused Him to drive out and cleanse God's Temple that was purposed for Worship!
- The Pharisees had a zeal, but not according to knowledge.
- But Jesus had a holy zeal; an intense, fervent passionate love and devotion for God's house, and God's honor, that stirred up in Him, to such a degree, that it was like a consuming fire; ultimately eating Him up (overwhelming Him). And Jesus took the evil acts displayed in the Temple as an insult against God, to the extent that He could not withhold expressing it accept in the manner He did, by driving those merchants, and money changers out of God's house, and thus He did not deal with them halfheartedly.
- This zeal; passion for the Father's honor will literally devour His life. It represented the cost He would pay on the cross.

¹Jesus' action fulfills Malachi 3:1, where the Lord "*will suddenly come to His temple*" to purify it. Jesus' cleansing act ignites opposition that will culminate in the cross; foreshadowing His sacrificial death. He was the Messiah and His act stirred within the disciples the remembrance of the written Prophecy. That reminds me of Jesus meeting the two disciples after His death and Resurrection on the Road to Emmaus, and Jesus had time to break bread with them, that's when the two disciples finally recognized Him!

SUMMARY:

Now, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem where it was almost time for the Jews' Passover (2:13). Every male Jew, from the age of twelve and up, was expected to attend the Passover at Jerusalem. And the condition of the Temple was not what Jesus was expecting. He began to put a whip together made from cords used to tie the animals, and drove out the animals, and those that were selling the animals—the crooked moneychangers and He thereby turns over their tables (2:14-15). He tells those that sold the doves to "*Take these things out, don't make my Father's house a marketplace; a house of merchandise*" (2:16). The disciples then remember the scripture of what was written in the Old Testament (Ps.69:9) (2:17). He thus fulfills a prophecy that His zeal for His Father's house will bring about His death (2:13-17).

APPLICATION:

Just as Jesus cleansed the physical temple, we are called to examine and cleanse our own temples from anything that detracts from our worship and relationship with God. house will surely need to be cleansed before Jesus' return. Spend time with God getting rid of the clutter that keeps you from moving in the right direction. Cherish God's house—the church building and our own bodies—with the same unrelenting zeal that glorifies God.

¹ https://biblehub.com/q/What_does_John_2_17_mean.htm
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

