

New Testament Church
The Book of John #4 – John 2:12-25 – Cleansing the Temple
January 25, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
 - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
 - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
- C. We face a time right now when believers are called to be light in the midst of darkness
 - 1. We are called to be the stability in a time of chaos and increased hatred / violence
 - 2. The Gospel of John is a book that depicts *how to be light in the midst of darkness*
- D. The theme in John chapter 2 is how **divinity intersects with humanity**
 - 1. The heavenly kingdom intersected with the home at the wedding of Cana
 - 2. Now, heaven interacts with the church – cleansing it and setting in order

II Cleansing of the Temple – John 2:12-25 – Son of God (divinity) and Son of Man (humanity)

- A. v. 12 - **First sphere** of Kingdom impact is the **home** (the priority of miracles in marriage)
 - 1. In verse 12 we see that He went to Capernaum with his mother, brothers and mother
 - 2. Capernaum, home of Peter, Andrew, James and John was the ‘new home’ of Jesus
 - 3. Potentially the conflict with his brothers and sisters (married in Nazareth?) began...
- B. v. 13-17 - Passover Feast – in the Spring – **Temple (church); second sphere of impact**
 - 1. Preparation began a month before – roads and housing prepared, ‘stalls’ in every town
 - a. Control over animal offerings – approved pigeons, doves, lambs, sheep, oxen...
 - b. The ‘money-changers’ changed foreign coin into Galilean half-shekels (for a price)
 - c. The poor were taken advantage of financially and the disabled were restricted access
 - d. A bureaucracy – bazaars - “official” priests tended to enrich the house of Annas
 - e. **The people were sick of the corruption, and the leaders had guilty consciences**
 - 2. Malachi 3:1-3 (430 BC) predicts this first cleansing of His Temple
 - a. He will sit as a **refiner’s fire** – cleansing the internal impurities of heart and motive
 - b. He will also clean the outside as **launderers’ soap** – the garments are our actions
 - 3. Restore the purpose of the Passover – **a focus on atonement for sin – the Lamb of God!**
 - a. A ‘house of merchandise’ – a profit for some at the expense of others – this is not a condemnation of the marketplace in general or selling on church property – but on focus
 - b. Psalm 69:8-9 – I have become a stranger... the *zeal* for your house has eaten me up
- C. v. 18-22 – The Priests challenge Jesus’ authority to cleanse the Temple
 - 1. What “**sign**” (**authority**) do you show us? *The sign of Christ’s death and resurrection!*
 - a. Destroy this Temple (His body) – they would seek to destroy Him in three years
 - b. I will raise it up in three days – the resurrection – it was His House!
 - 2. After Christ rose, the **disciples remembered what He said** and understood it clearly
- D. v. 23-25 – Many **believed in Jesus (not disciples)** after seeing miracles at the Feast...
 - 1. John’s disclaimer – John 21:25 – there are many things Jesus did that are not written!
 - 2. People would have “crowned Him King” on an impulse, an emotion – He refused
 - 3. Jesus knew the difference between a person’s emotional reaction and true commitment.