

Why have you wanted to be near Jesus – What is the attraction for you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are we to “entrust ourselves” to anyone who seems interested in Jesus? How do we decide who to let into our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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For next time, John 3:1-21 §36

## Tearing Down the

## “Consumer god”

Week 20: John 2:13-25 §34, 35



### First Passover — Cleansing the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Note: Five Passovers are mentioned in the life of Jesus: The time of His birth; Luke 2:41, this passage, John 6:4ff where He did much teaching on bread, and the final Passover starting in John 11:55 leading up to His personal offering on the cross. In the rhythm of the seasons, this time of year seemed to have huge significance to Jesus...

14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He 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."

Notes: During the high holidays, such as Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, certain priests took advantage of their status by setting up stalls inside the Court of the Gentiles. It would appear that, on this occasion, the market had spilled over from the Royal Stoa into the holy area. When Jesus, in parallel passages of three Gospels, declares, “My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you are making it a den of robbers” (Luke 19:46; see also Matt 21:13 and Mark 11:17, which echo God’s words from Isa 56:7 and Jer 7:11), he would have been referring not to the Royal

Stoa on the Herodian addition but to the profane activities that took place inside the sacred square precinct. As for Jesus' accusation that the merchants had made it "a den of robbers," there is abundant confirmation in the historical sources of the extortionate prices charged to those who bought sacrificial animals or who needed to change their money to pay the temple tribute. On one occasion, Rabbi, son of Gamaliel, caused a reduction of 99% in the price of a pair of doves, as recorded in [Mishnah Kerithoth](#) 1.7.

Leen Ritmeyer, "Temple Mount and the Money Changers", n.p. [cited 18 Jul 2015].  
Online: <http://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/the-temple-mount-and-the-money-changers>

Given the words underlined in the passage, how much thought do you think Jesus gave this action? ..or was it just a momentary reaction?

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17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

Look up the context of this in Psalm 69:5-12. What is the song saying and how does it foreshadow Jesus life? \_\_\_\_\_

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18 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Compare this statement to what Jesus said to the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew 16:4. Do you see a parallel? What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He 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.

This is the first mention of the temple of God being equated with a human body. Consider how this foreshadowed the following statements in Scripture:

1. Matt. 12:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Mark 14:58 \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Acts 7:48 \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. 1Cor 3:16, 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. 1Cor 6:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Hebrews 9:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
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23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. 24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Why did Jesus resist the consumer attachments of people, and what do you think He knew about the hearts of those who wanted to be with Him because of His miracles? \_\_\_\_\_

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