

Cleansing of the Temple (2:12-25)

I. Theological Prologue (1:1-18)

II. Presentation of Jesus (1:19-4:54)

A. By John the Baptist (1:19-34)

B. By the first Disciples of Jesus (1:35-51)

C. At The Wedding in Cana

D. At the Temple in Jerusalem (2:12-25)

1. Quick trip to Capernaum (2:12)

a. Capernaum was northeast of Cana, but at a lower elevation (DOWN)

b. Capernaum became His home base (Mat. 4:13; Mk. 1:21; Mark 2:1)

c. From this point on Jesus seemed to be alienated from his family. (Mk. 3:21; Mk.: 3:31-35; John 7:3-5) and from His hometown Nazareth (Mk. 6:1-6; Luke 4:14-30)

2. The Cleansing of the Temple (2:13-17)

a. Jesus attended the Passover feast (Ex. 12:14-20, 43-49; Deut. 16:1-8)

b. There are two other Passover feasts during Jesus' earthly ministry. (John 6:4; John 11:55, 12:1, 13:1)

c. The N.T. records two cleansings. The other one is in Matthew 21:12-13.

d. The wickedness of the dishonest merchants (v.14) Selling of animals began as a convenience for people traveling from distances. It developed into a major revenue source for the city and it corrupted worship. Likewise for currency exchangers for foreign coinage with a high % charge for this service.

e. The whip, righteous indignation (v.15) Predicted by Malachi (Mal. 3:1-3). See Nehemiah for another scene of righteous indignation. (Neh. 13:23ff)

f. Condemnation of the thieves (v.16) Profitable worship? Not according to God.

g. Scripture fulfilled (v.17) Psalm 69:9 "The zeal for the Father's truth..."

3. The Prediction of His Bodily Temple (v.18-25)

a. The ignorance of the Jewish leaders (v.18-22)

i. The sign demanded (v.18) They insist on a validating SIGN from Jesus. What authority does He have to challenge the STATUS QUO at the Temple. (I Cor. 1:22, Jews want a "SIGN," Greeks want "WISDOM."

ii. The sign described (v.19) Jesus describes His resurrection in a veiled manner. Similar to the Parables. He wanted the hearers to ponder His statement. It became one of his accusations. (Mat. 26:60-61)

iii. The sign distorted (v.20-21) They think of the physical temple. (Herod's temple). Herod wanted to endear himself to the Jews by restoration (start 20 B.C. 46 years took it to A.D. 28) and beautification of Zerubbabel's (2nd Governor after the first RETURN WAVE) Temple (finished 515 B.C. Ezra 6:15. 6th year of Darius.

iv. The sign discerned (v.22). His disciples understood "AFTER" His resurrection. This was the SCANDAL of the SECRET of a SUFFERING MESSIAH, and HIS resurrection. No one, the religious leaders, the priests, the Levites, his closest disciples understood His PASSION MINISTRY. (Is. 52:12-53:12)

b. The insincerity of the Jewish laity (v.23-25)

i. Many believed in Him in Jerusalem but for insincere motives. He obviously did many other MIRACLES, I.E. healings, etc...They believed that He was a great HEALER, but not a SAVIOR from SIN, nor The Lord!

ii. Jesus "saw" their shallow BELIEF. A temporary excitement and faith in regards to "ASTONISHING" DEEDS was not equivalent to Saving Faith. Their faith was "VAIN FAITH." I Corinthians 15:2.

iii. See Matthew 7: 21-23

vi. Saving Faith = Repentance and Faith. Total change of mind. Agreement with the LORD regarding my state and the totality of the Gospel. And an understanding of the IDENTITY of Jesus Christ. SAVIOR and LORD!