

Why We Study the Whole Bible

International Bible Lesson

John 2:13-22

Sunday, April 15, 2012

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said” (John 2:19, 22—KJV).

“Jesus answered, ‘Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again.’ So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said” (John 2:19, 22—GNB).

“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken” (John 2:19, 22—NRSV).

During the first Passover that Jesus celebrated with His disciples, He cleansed the stone temple that Herod had built and purified it for the worship of God. When the religious leaders questioned Jesus’ authority to cleanse their temple, He told them that if they destroyed “this temple” (speaking of His body) that He would raise it up in three days. During the last Passover that Jesus celebrated, the religious leaders arranged His crucifixion and destroyed “this temple.” Notice that Jesus said He himself would raise up “this temple,” His “body,” from the dead. As the Son of God, Jesus had the power to raise up His dead body without any help, glorify His body, and make His body the temple of God once again.

Before the disciples saw the resurrected Jesus, John said, “for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead” (John 20:9). Throughout Jesus’ ministry, He taught the disciples some truths about His destiny that they only understood after He rose from the dead. They remembered many facts about Jesus and His applications of the Scriptures to himself only after they received the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised, that God the Father sent in Jesus’ name (see John 14:26; 20:22). Therefore, Christians believe and study the scriptures that Jesus studied, the Hebrew Scriptures; and in addition, they seek to understand and obey Jesus’ words, the story of His life, and the Apostles’ writings that became the New Testament. — © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. When Jesus began His ministry in Jerusalem, He found people selling animals for sacrifices in the temple, which He had seen every time He visited Jerusalem from the time He was a child growing up into manhood. How might He have felt during all those years prior to cleansing the temple?

2. Why do you think Jesus began His ministry in Jerusalem by first cleansing the temple?

3. How might the selling of animals for sacrifices have begun with good intentions and then eventually become corrupted?

4. Today, in what ways might a church become a marketplace and have an adverse effect upon the worship and service of God?

5. Why do you think Jesus purposely gave the temple authorities an obscure answer about the temple and His body?

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