

WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

John 2:13-25

Provided by



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John 2:13-25

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said. Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

Day 1: What Stirs Your Heart?

Devotional

Have you ever felt that deep stirring in your heart when something sacred is treated carelessly? Maybe it was watching someone disrespect a loved one, or seeing a meaningful tradition mocked. That stirring isn't just emotion, but a reflection of what matters most to you. Jesus experienced this same stirring when He entered the temple courts during Passover. The place meant for worship and reverence had become a marketplace. What should have been sacred space for encountering God had been reduced to convenience and profit. His heart burned with righteous indignation because His Father's house, the place where heaven meets earth, was being dishonored. This wasn't anger for anger's sake. It was the passionate response of someone who deeply values what is holy. Jesus' zeal reveals His heart. He cares deeply about authentic worship and genuine relationship with God. When we understand what stirs Jesus' heart, we begin to understand what should stir ours. The things that matter to God should matter to us.

Bible Verse

'Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" - John 2:16

Reflection Question

What sacred things in your life do you feel passionate about protecting? How does that reflect your heart's priorities?

Quote

When was the last time that something stirred you? Not just irritated you, not just simply bothered you, but truly stirred? The kind that comes when something that you consider sacred is treated casually.

Prayer

Lord, help me to care deeply about the things that matter to You. Stir my heart with Your passion for what is holy and true. Amen.

Day 2: The Cost of True Sacrifice

Devotional

Imagine a family carefully tending their best lamb for months, watching it grow strong and healthy. Early mornings feeding it, protecting it from harm, knowing this animal represented their future security. Then came Passover, time to bring this precious lamb as a sacrifice to God. This wasn't just giving up an animal, but was laying part of their tomorrow at God's feet. The sacrifice represented trust, surrender, and genuine cost. It was a visible confession that sin is serious, God is holy, and they desperately needed mercy. However, what Jesus found in the temple courts was different. Worship had become convenient, transactional, purchased rather than personal. The deep spiritual weight of sacrifice was fading into mere religious routine. When we can simply buy our way through spiritual obligations, we miss the transformative power of genuine surrender. God doesn't want our leftovers or our convenience. He desires our hearts, our trust, our willingness to lay our future security in His hands. True worship costs us something, our pride, our control, our comfort zones.

Bible Verse

'In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.' - John 2:14

'What can we bring to the LORD? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.' - Micah 6:6-8

Reflection Question

What would genuine, costly worship look like in your life today, beyond just convenient religious activities?

Quote

The animal represented months, if not years of care. It represented early mornings, long seasons of tending to the animal's health. It embodied provision. It embodied strength. It embodied future stability.

Prayer

Father, help me offer You worship that costs me something real. May my surrender be genuine, not just convenient. Amen.

Day 3: My Father's House

Devotional

When Jesus declared the temple "My Father's house," He wasn't just making a theological statement, but was revealing the intimacy of His relationship with God. No one else could claim this unique connection. His words carried the authority of a Son defending His Father's honor. This wasn't the distant respect of a servant or the casual familiarity of a friend. This was the passionate love of a Son who knew His Father's heart intimately. Jesus understood that the temple wasn't just a building, but was the place where His Father chose to dwell among His people. It's the sacred space where heaven touched earth. The merchants had turned this holy ground into a marketplace, and Jesus couldn't stand by and watch His Father's house be dishonored. His zeal wasn't destructive rage, but was protective love. He was guarding what was precious to His Father. Today, we are His Father's house. God's Spirit dwells within us, making our hearts sacred space. Just as Jesus zealously protected the temple, He zealously guards the holiness of our hearts. We belong to His Father, and that relationship changes everything about how we should live.

Bible Verse

'Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?' - 1 Corinthians 3:16

Reflection Question

How does knowing you are God's dwelling place change the way you view your daily choices and priorities?

Quote

When Jesus says, "my Father's house", he speaks of a relationship that's personal, that's direct and very unique. No one else can claim it.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for sending your Holy Spirit to take up residence in me. Help me honor the sacred space You've created within me. Amen.

Day 4: Clearing the Clutter

Devotional

Jesus didn't just cleanse the temple that day and walk away. His work of clearing sacred space continues today, but now in our hearts. Just as He drove out the merchants and money changers, He actively removes the spiritual clutter that hinders our worship and relationship with God. What crowds the sacred space of your heart? Maybe it's bitterness that has taken root after being hurt. Perhaps it's habits that dull your sensitivity to God's voice. It could be resentment that grows stronger each day, or patterns of compromise that slowly distance you from His presence. Jesus sees these hindrances and, with the same zeal He showed in the temple, works to clear them out. He doesn't do this to punish us, but to restore authentic worship in our lives. He removes what separates us from experiencing His presence fully. This clearing isn't always comfortable, but it's always loving. Just as a gardener removes weeds so flowers can flourish, Jesus removes spiritual obstacles so our relationship with Him can thrive. He's making room for genuine worship, real intimacy, and authentic spiritual growth.

Bible Verse

'Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.' - Psalm 51:10

Reflection Question

What spiritual clutter in your heart needs Jesus' cleansing touch? Are you willing to let Him remove it?

Quote

He clears the bitterness that lingers here. He clears the habits that dull our sensitivity to God. He clears the resentment that grows roots in us.

Prayer

Jesus, I invite You to clear out anything in my heart that hinders true worship. Remove what doesn't belong in Your sacred space. Amen.

Day 5: Worthy of Wholehearted Worship

Devotional

The same Jesus who zealously guarded His Father's house has opened the way for us to enter it. Through His sacrifice on the cross, the barrier between us and God has been removed. We now have access to the holy presence that was once reserved for the high priest alone. This incredible gift calls for a response, not transactional worship, but wholehearted surrender. Jesus isn't looking for people who are merely fascinated by Him or impressed with His miracles. He's seeking those who will worship God with their entire lives, not just on Sundays, but through daily gratitude, surrender, and reverence. True worship flows from understanding who Jesus is and what He's done. He didn't just cleanse a building, but became the true dwelling place of God among His people. He didn't just drive out merchants, He drove out sin and death through His own sacrifice. Because of His zeal for His Father's house, we can now approach God with confidence. Because of His perfect sacrifice, our imperfect offerings are accepted. He is worthy of our wholehearted worship, not because He demands it, but because He has earned it through His incredible love.

Bible Verse

'Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." - John 2:17

'What can we bring to the LORD? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.' - Micah 6:6-8

Reflection Question

How can you live out wholehearted worship in your everyday life, beyond just Sunday services?

Quote

Because the one who guarded his father's house has opened the way for us to enter it. And he is worthy of wholehearted worship.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are worthy of my complete devotion. Help me worship You with my whole life, in every moment and decision. Amen.