

III. The Path to Worship (2:22)

- A. After the resurrection, this whole event came to mind with great clarity.
 - i. *Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.*
 - ii. To believe in Jesus means believing the Scripture and the words of Jesus.
- B. His death, the destruction of the temple of His body, means our sins forgiven and that we can draw near in full assurance of faith. Believe those words.

C. Pure worship is through faith in Jesus Christ.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- From the text of John 2:12-22, what can we say about why Jesus drove the money-changers out of the temple?
- What might this account imply regarding building “worship services” around the needs, desires, or convenience of the worshipers, or what is culturally relevant to the worshiper?
- How does the theme of Jesus as the temple of God continue a theme that began in John 1?
- What does the declaration from Jesus to destroy the temple and He will raise it up in three days, since it refers to Jesus' body, mean concerning the pure worship of God?
- How does the author of Hebrews speak to transformation of worship because of the death and resurrection of Jesus?
- Do you worship God by the new and living way, Jesus Christ? Do you draw near to God with a sincere heart and the assurance that only faith can bring? Do you hold unswervingly to the hope of the Gospel? Does your worship involve others with whom you gather, those you spur on toward love and good deeds, others who spur you on to love and good deeds?

The Word Became Flesh (7) *Jesus' Passion for Pure Worship* Jerry Cisar — January 29, 2017

Text: John 2:12-22

Introduction: Pure Worship is Important to Jesus!

I. The Prophetic Act (2:12-17)

- A. Jesus leaves home to go to Jerusalem and to His Father's house.
 - i. Matthew 4:13
 - ii. Is Jesus to remain with his earthly home, or is he pursuing His Father's house... His eternal home?
- B. What is the Passover?
 - i. There is a relationship between Passover and what Jesus does at the temple.
 - ii. Exodus 29:46
- C. Jesus at the temple. (14-16)
 - i. A prophetic act: *an action that is communicating a prophetic message.*
 - a) Strictly speaking the issue is that rather than being a place of worship it is a place of business.
 - ii. At a minimum this event should inform how we view worship.
 - a) Worship is not about us; worship is about God.

- b) Worship begins when God is made known and reaches its purpose when we respond appropriately in faith to what He has revealed.

*"...worship is 'the expression of a relationship in which God the Father reveals Himself and His love in Christ and by His Holy Spirit administers grace, to which we respond in faith, gratitude, and obedience.'"*¹

D. Zeal for true worship in the Father's house will consume Jesus.

- i. His disciples remembered: *Even in their newly formed faith, they were seeing that Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures.*

- ii. Psalm 69 and its context.

- a) Goldingay: *"When People Mock Zeal for YHWH's House."*

- b) Psalm 69:7-9

- iii. A tense change.

II. The Promised Sign (2:18-21)

A. A Strange Question... or is It? (18)

- i. Their question requires that they knew something of the meaning of His action.

- a) Malachi 3:1-4

- b) Isaiah 66:5-6

- ii. They recognized what Jesus did as a statement that He was the coming Messiah who would purify temple worship.

B. Destroy this Temple (19-21)

- i. *"Destroy this sanctuary, this temple, this dwelling place of God, and I will raise it up in three days!"*

- a) The resurrection of Jesus, following His death, is the promised sign!

- ii. What does the death and resurrection change regarding worship? Everything!

- a) John has been building to this theme:

- 1:14 – Jesus is God tabernacling among us.
 - 1:51 Jesus is the House of God.
 - 2:21 Jesus is the temple, the very dwelling place of God—the place of worship; the only true means by which we may access God.

- b) The death and resurrection of Jesus changes the very definition of true worship forever.

- Hebrews 10:10, 18
 - Hebrews 10:19-25

*"Worship was designed to be a communal activity, a time when the household of faith would assemble to praise God together, to pray for one another, to continue in the Word and encourage one another, and to commemorate together the sacrificial atonement that God provided to make them one."*²

¹ Schaper quoted in Ross, Alan P., *Recalling the Hope of Glory*, pg. 66.

² Ross, Alan P., *Recalling the Hope of Glory*, pg. 58.