

## Raze this Temple and I Will Raise this Temple

*John 2:18-25*

**Thought for the Day:** The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the foundation of Christianity (1 Corinthians 15:1-8) and the supreme evidence that Jesus was who He claimed to be—the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus cleansed the temple twice: 1) The first time at the beginning of His ministry; and 2) The second time at the conclusion of His ministry, both times during the observance of Passover Week and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Today, followers of Jesus Christ are the temple of God; He literally dwells within our bodies. The Lord wants us to manifest the same zeal that Jesus did in dealing with sin in our own lives!

In cleansing the temple, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, God in human flesh. The Jewish religious leaders demanded proof.

### **18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"**

- "Who are you and by what authority are you doing these things?" (Cp. 1:19-28)
- *New Living Translation:* "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.'"
- The word "authority" occurs 13 times in the Gospel of John.
  - This is a key issue in John's Gospel: Did Jesus speak and act by His own authority, or did His authority come from God?
  - Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus repeatedly claimed that His authority came from God. (John 5:26-27; 7:17; 8:28; 10:18; 12:49; 14:10; 17:2)
  - He did not speak or act except by God's authority. (Cp. Luke 20:1-2)
- The religious authorities understood that Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah, the Son of God. So, they demanded proof: "If You are the Son of God, if You are the Messiah, then prove it by performing some spectacular miracle!"
- The Jews were notorious for demanding miraculous signs as evidence of divine authority. (1 Corinthians 1:22)
  - Sadly, there are many Christians and entire churches today that need weekly miracles to keep their faith going!
  - Miracles are not necessarily a proof that a given message or messenger is sent from God. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Matthew 24:24)
- Those who *are not willing to believe the truth* will not be persuaded by even the greatest of miraculous signs! (Luke 16:19-31)
  - Christ's resurrection from the dead is the ultimate proof that He was who He claimed to be!
  - Jesus did perform miracles while in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast (2:23), but there's no indication these religious leaders believed in Him.

### **19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."**

- Cp. Matthew 12:39-40, the sign of Jonah the prophet.

**20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.**

- Zerubbabel's temple had been built more than five hundred years earlier, but Herod the Great had begun remodeling it, making it much larger and far more beautiful.
- This remodeling project had started forty-six years earlier in 20 B.C., and was not finished until A.D. 64.

**22 When therefore 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.**

- The disciples correctly put Jesus' words on an equal footing with Scripture (e.g., Psalm 22; Isaiah 53).
- After His resurrection, the Holy Spirit illuminated their minds to understand and believe the Scriptures. (John 14:26)
- "For believers, the Resurrection places a confirming stamp on Jesus' life and words. It is not just one of many miracles of Jesus. Instead, it is the key to understanding God's plan; it is the central, foundational fact of Christianity. As Paul put it, 'If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith' (1 Corinthians 15:14 *NIV*)." (*The Life Application Commentary*)

**23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.**

- But, their faith was not complete. The people believed in Jesus as a miracle worker or a political messiah, but not necessarily as the true Messiah, the Son of God.
- "It was similar to the condition which we have in the world [today] where many people claim to be Christians who have never truly been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." (*MacDonald, p. 1431*)
- Is our faith in Jesus Christ complete? Do we fully trust Him to be the Savior of our soul and the Lord of our life?

**24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.**

- The people believed in Jesus (vs. 23), but Jesus did not believe in them (vs. 24). Many trusted in His name, but He did not entrust Himself to them.
- "Jesus did not need to be told about human nature; he knew the motives behind people's actions because he thoroughly knew the human makeup. He knew how fickle people were (and are). Jesus was well aware of the truth of Jeremiah 17:9: 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?' Jesus was discerning, and he knew that the faith of some followers was superficial. Some of the same people who claimed to believe in Jesus at this time would later yell, 'Crucify him!'" (*Life Application Commentary Series*)
- We need to be careful who we trust. People do not necessarily have our best interests at heart. We should not automatically assume that they are telling us the truth.
- Matthew 10:16-17 – "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men..."
- Jesus Christ alone is absolutely worthy of our trust!