

Texts: John 2:12-25

The setting:

- When: The Passover
- Where: Jerusalem, The Temple
- Who: Jesus, Salesmen, Money changers
- What: Jesus confronts sinful, corrupt, and empty religious behavior

Hearts exposed:

- The religious: Empty worship, corrupt, unjust, passive
- Jesus: Zealous for genuine worship, integrity, and the mission of God to reconcile all people to Himself.

Key truth: Jesus fulfills all that the temple, and its system represents. He is the sacrifice, the priest, and the presence of God accessible to all who seek Him. Jesus invites you into a relationship, not a religion.

**Questions for reflection:** (What do my behaviors expose about my heart?)

- If Jesus were to walk into my daily life, what would He find that is not aligned with the heart and mission of God?
- How can I approach corporate worship more intentionally?
- How am I going through the religious motions but missing the deeper relational connection with Jesus?
- Where is there sin that has become normalized in/around me?
- What is happening around me and in our world that breaks the heart of Jesus?
  - Where is there passivity in me toward injustice and corruption?
- Are there ways that my expression of faith is an obstacle to others who are seeking Jesus?

**Pray:** Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

- How have you experienced God working in your life lately?
- Who has been working on the spiritual practice of prayer this month?  
Who has been working on memorizing the verse for this month?
- Tell us about how that is impacting your daily walk with Jesus.

Looking up:

Read John 2:12-25 Then, have someone summarize this story in their own words.

What stood out to you about the sermon? What was helpful? Confusing? Inspiring?

How does this Sunday's Biblical story and last week's help you understand the heart of Jesus more clearly?

Look through the questions for reflection in the sermon notes. Which ones were most relevant to you? Why?

**Pray:** Spend time praying together and for one another based on what is shared.

Looking forward:

What step of action is Jesus calling you to take this week? How can we support you and pray for you?

January's Memory Verse:

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.  
Psalm 51:10-12 NLT