



DISUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *Cleaning House [John 2:13-25]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

When it comes to appreciating organization, cleaning how would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10?

1 (Disorganization doesn't bother me) -----10 (Yep, I'm a neat freak.)

Why?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. How have you mostly understood this passage in the past?
2. Does Jesus "anger", making a whip and driving people out of the temple change your view of Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Dave quoted from Larry Crabb saying, "The core problem is not that we are too passionate about bad things, but that we are not passionate enough about good things." How does Jesus model this for us in this passage?
4. What may it mean for us that Jesus has rights over our temple? In what ways may Jesus be overturning tables in the Big C Church and in the temple of our hearts?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 2:13-25]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins in having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, where in the text.)

What time was it when Jesus went to Jerusalem? (2:13)

What did Jesus find in the temple courts? (2:14)

What did Jesus do in the temple courts? (2:15)

How did Jesus respond to those who were selling doves? (2:16)

What did Jesus' disciples remember? (2:17)

What did the Jews demand from Jesus? (2:18)

How did Jesus respond to the demand from the Jews? (2:19)

What temple did the Jews think Jesus was talking about? (2:20)

What temple was Jesus talking about? (2:21)

When did the disciples remember what Jesus had said? (2:22)

How did the people respond to Jesus' miracles? (2:23)

What was Jesus' response to those who believed in Him? (2:24-25)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What was the significance of the Passover event for the nation of Israel?

Why would Jesus be appalled to see merchants, the exchanging of currency, animals roaming around inside the temple court reserved for Gentiles to worship God?

Was Jesus justified in his anger? In what ways can we be rightly justified being angry? How can we reference this text inappropriately to justify our anger?

In what way does Jesus communicate that He is Lord of the Temple? That He has the right to clean house and restore it to its proper use?

Considering that we are both a part of the visible church (i.e. ekklesia in which Jesus will build His church, e.g. Eph. 2:19-20) AND we are part of the invisible church (i.e. Christ in us, you are God's temple, e.g. 1 Corinthians 3:16).

What needs cleaning? What is disordered and needs re-ordering under Christ as the Head of the Church? In what way can we be part of the solution?

Why do you think the Jewish leaders were appalled at Jesus statement? (vv 17-18)

What is the significance of Jesus' response to the religious leaders demand for a miraculous sign? (v20)

In what way is Jesus telling us that He isn't just another person in a long line of religious reformers, but He has come to replace the whole system?

What is the point of John's statement in verses 23-25? Why is Jesus skeptical of people "trusting him"--that people believed in Him, but He did not entrust Himself to them?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?