

Your vision of Jesus shapes your faith.

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." *John 2:13-17*

Why was he so angry?

God's temple was defiled by greed.

Not a single person tried to stop him.

His eyes were like a **flame** of fire... *Revelation 19:12*

...for our God is a consuming **fire**. *Hebrews 12:29*

When he said to them "I am He", they drew back and **fell** to the ground. *John 18:6*

Your body is God's temple.

Do you not know that you are God's **temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in **you**? *1 Corinthians 3:16*

Every human has a place in their chest designed to be God's home.

Don't you realize that your body is the **temple** of the Holy Spirit, who **lives in you** and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. **So** you must **honor** God with your body. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

Jesus is just as passionate about your temple as he was about the temple.

Dear children, **keep away** from anything that might take **God's place** in your hearts. *1 John 5:21*

What does Jesus want to chase out of your heart?

"If a [person's] self is not kept clean and bright, his glimpse of God will be blurred—like the moon seen through a dirty telescope."
— C.S. Lewis

Group Prep

In preparation for group, read John 2:13-17, listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Who is Jesus to you? A helpful Jew? A magician? A close friend? A great role-model? A superhero? The ultimate sacrifice? A myth? A legend? A protector? A savior? The one you turn to when you can no longer pull yourself through a difficult situation? Maybe you're still trying to understand and decipher who Jesus is, and that's ok! Wherever you fall on this spectrum, you must recognize that your vision of Jesus will help or hurt your faith.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your vision of Jesus? Share some life events, passages of Scripture, or educational findings that have shaped your view of Him?

2. After reading John 2:13-17, how do you respond to the way Jesus reacted to what He saw in the temple area? What was going on in the temple area that Jesus had such difficulty with?

During the altercation in the temple area, the disciples remembered the prophecy from the Psalms, "Passion for God's house will consume me." Take a moment to read Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16, 1 Peter 2:4-5, and Romans 12:1-2. Based on the passages you just read from Paul and Peter, why would "passion for God's house" consume Jesus?

How do we determine what's in our temple that shouldn't be there?

3. If Jesus were to visit your temple, what would he find? What would he chase out? What would grieve Him? What have you allowed to enter into that place that belongs to Him? What area of your life does Jesus need to flip over?

How does allowing unrighteousness to live in our temple keep us from experiencing the abundant life God has planned for us? How does it keep God's church from accomplishing Jesus' mission?

Action Step

How are you going to work with the Holy Spirit to remove what should not be in your temple? What can you replace it with this coming week?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

Serve at The Refuge: As a group, support Emmanuel's local nonprofit partnership, The Refuge, by preparing a meal, stocking the pantry/clothing, mentoring a client, or encouraging the disheartened. Call 317-889-7338 and ask for Marcie to schedule a Thursday night.

Support a foster family: Emmanuel has multiple families who have recently brought foster children into their home. Preparing a meal, purchasing a gift card, mowing the lawn, providing childcare, or cleaning a house are just a few ways we can support them as they provide structure for a child in need.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel's Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.