

Theme: The temple was where God met with his people. It pointed forward to the perfect meeting of God and man in Jesus, who is the fulfillment and center of all true worship. In him we enter the father’s house. In him, we become part of the new temple.

Introduction: The power of “transformation”

I. Clearing the Temple

A. For worship

1. At Passover (the first time)
 - “Down” from Cana to
 - “Up” (literally & metaphorically) to Jerusalem
 - First of three (2:13; 6:4; 11:55)
2. What he found
 - “Court of Gentiles” is a marketplace
 - A necessary service – in the wrong place
 - Robbing the Gentiles of access to the house of God

APPLICATION: How sin *creeps* in.

3. What he does:
 - Whip of cords
 - Clearing the courtyard

4. Why he acts

- a. Zeal for the Lord’s house – for his worship (Psalm 69:9)
 - Loves the honor, glory, name, worship *of the Father!!*
 - This is not a “house of trade!”
- b. Purity in worship!!
 - What may be “OK” for us, may not be “OK” with him!

APPLICATION: Do we honor God with the worship we want, or the worship he wants?

B. With authority

1. My Father’s house
 - Is he claiming equality with God? (cf. 5:17,18)
2. The confrontation (18, cf. Mk. 11:28)
 - a. Asking for his “credentials”
 - More concerned with his *authority* than his critique
 - b. Give us a sign
 - The wrong question
 - They would have him perform when they should be pondering
Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1,3

II. Destroying (and Rebuilding) the Temple (19)

What they heard...

A. The one made by hands?

1. You tear this down! I will build it!
 - 46 year project still in progress
 - Words used against him at his trial (cf. Mark 14:58; 15:29)
2. A challenge they will not test
 - But a very appropriate sign for authority to govern temple practices

What we hear...

B. The temple of His body

1. Transformation

- a. The temple, the place of meeting between God and mankind
 - With limits!
- b. A living *temple*
 - Dwelling among us
 - One with our nature
 - Zeal for the honor of God and his kingdom people
- c. The *old* is obsolete
 - It's work and place is done
 - The perfect sacrifice is complete (Hebrews 10:10)

2. Abundance

- a. You came to the temple to meet with God
 - Needing an intermediary
- b. Now the temple comes to us. In Christ...
 - 1) The temple is present with us
 - 2) We are a part of the temple! (1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19)
 - 3) We are becoming that dwelling place (Ephesians 2:18-22)

III. Entering the Temple

A. Believing the Word

1. Remembering his words – “in three days I will raise it up”
2. Tasting the ministry of the Spirit (John 14:26)

B. Entrusting ourselves to Him (23-25)

1. The disciples believed the Scriptures and his Word
2. Many others “believed” but did not entrust themselves to him
 - He did not entrust himself to them
3. He gives himself to those who entrust themselves to him
 - Giving his life for them (10:11)
 - He holds them securely into eternity (10:28)