



The Temple of God
5th in the “Life in his Name?” Series
John 2:12-25, p. 887
September 30, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains how Jesus is the Temple of God, the center of the church’s life and worship.

The Text: John 2:12-25

- 1) Our worship of God must be Jesus-centered and Jesus-directed (vv. 13-17).

- 2) Our connection to God is mediated in every way through Jesus (vv. 18-22).

Ephesians 2:13-22: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one ... ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross ... ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- 3) The true significance of Jesus is often misapplied by people looking for their own “savior” (vv. 23-25).

Response

Jesus is the Temple of God, and the life and worship of the church must be centered entirely upon him.

Sunday Text Questions for John 2:12-25

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- 1) Starter Question: What does this phrase mean: “Jesus is the Temple of God?”
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What historical information do you need to understand about the temple and its sacrificial system to understand the scene being described at the start of this text?
- 4) How do you explain the aggressive actions of Jesus in the temple (e.g., driving out people, pouring out money, flipping tables) described in vv. 14-16, and is such “righteous anger” justified?
- 5) What does Jesus mean when he says, “do not make my Father’s house a house of trade/business?”
- 6) How can we avoid making our Christian practices a trade/business so that we rightly worship God?
- 7) In what way is Jesus talking about his resurrected body in vv. 18-22 and not the temple structure, and why is this important?
- 8) Why is it significant that the narrator in v. 22 explains not only that the disciples later (after the resurrection) remembered not only Jesus’ words but also “the Scripture?” How does the Old Testament point to Jesus as the temple of God (his physical presence and his death which connects us to God)?
- 9) The Jewish temple connected people to God (presence) and directed their relationship to God (practice). How does Jesus fulfill both of those roles?
- 10) Read Ephesians 2:11-22. How is Jesus, the Temple of God, connected to his people, the church, and in what ways is that significant?

Further study this week: Ephesians 2 on the Body of Christ (Mon); Psalm 69 on the quotation used by Jesus (Tues); 1 Corinthians 3, esp. vv. 16-17 (“you” is plural), on the church as God’s temple (Wed); 1 Corinthians 6, esp. vv. 19-20, on the Christian as God’s temple (Thurs); Revelations 21, esp. v. 22, on God as the Temple (Fri).