



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

The Gospel of John Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: I Will Raise

Sermon Title: “The Cleansing Priest” (John 2:13-21) (Bonus)

### Connection to Session 3

In John 2:13-21, Jesus goes to the temple to cleanse it of the corrupt actions taking place there. When Jesus cleansed the temple, He revealed His identity as the cleansing priest who purifies the temple.

### Introduction/Opening

Imagine walking into a church building one day and seeing an illegal drug dealership set up. Would you find that shocking? Most definitely. That is the sort of shock we should have when we read this passage in John 2.

### Outline

#### 1. The Cleansing Priest (2:13-16)

a) The temple is where the people went to offer their sacrifices to God and worship Him. However, instead of going to the temple and hearing prayers and Scripture readings, they hear the sound of commerce. They had turned the temple into a religious strip mall. Jesus cleansed the temple because they had made the temple into something common. We must guard ourselves against being more concerned about common interests or convenience than worship of the true and Holy God.

b) This action by Jesus also symbolizes how the true temple has arrived. John 1:14 teaches how Jesus “became flesh and dwelt among us.” Here we see the true temple, the presence of God on earth, has arrived. We go to God only through Jesus Christ.

#### 2. The Zeal of the Priest (2:17)

a) Jesus’s disciples realized why He acted in such a way at the temple, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” This is a quotation from Psalm 69:9. In Psalm 69, David is crying out to God because of opposition from foes.

b) Jesus’s cleansing of the temple testifies to His concern for pure worship. His actions also demonstrate His desire for a right relationship between God and humanity.

#### 3. The Resurrection of the Priest (2:18-22)

a) Despite the works that Jesus was doing among them, the Jews ask Jesus for another sign. What they are trying to do here is control Jesus. They wanted a “god” they could

control. We must be careful to not fashion our understanding of God based off what we want and desire but rather on His revelation of Himself in the Bible.

- b) Jesus told them that He will die and rise in three days. They misunderstood and did not know that He was speaking of the resurrection. After the resurrection, Jesus's disciples understand what He meant here. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

## **Conclusion**

In this passage Jesus is showing how He is the true temple, the center of true worship of the One true God. Jesus is how we have access to God. Christ's resurrection seals our salvation. The true temple of Christ's body will never be torn down and true worship will never be stopped.

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