



Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

Temples, traders and truth (John 2:12-25)

Take some time to reflect on these questions relating to the sermon:

- In what ways are you seeking God's glory by praying for, supporting and even acting for his ways of justice in this world?
- Are there ways you have allowed your own reputation to lead you to deny your allegiance to God? Maybe you need to say sorry?
- Is there someone you know who needs your encouragement to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus as they find it hard to be the light of Jesus in their context?

Deeper Study Questions

The temple in Jerusalem was the most important place on earth to any Jew. It was the place where heaven and earth meet, where the Creator God had chosen to take up residence among his people. It was a sacred place where Israel's priestly representatives enter into presence of God on their behalf to express thanks, confession, and praise.

There is a rich theology of temple running from Genesis right through to Revelation but we will focus just on the bits surrounding this passage for today.

- The temple was at the heart of life in Jerusalem. What do Jesus' words and actions tell us about what the temple had become (vv. 15-16)?
- What does John think Jesus' actions mean? Consider 1:29 and 2:13 in light of their Old Testament context (see Exodus).
- In John 1:14 we read 'The Word became flesh and dwelled among us, and we saw his glory.' Dwelled can also be translated 'pitched his tent' or 'Tabernacled'. What is the importance of Jesus' body being The Temple? (see also Matt 12:6)
- Despite knowing this, in 2:19 Jesus statement is still outrageous to all who hear and all misunderstand. What happened to help the disciples 'see' what Jesus really meant (v. 22)?
- There were two cleansings of the temple, one at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and one at the end (*though this point is still debated*). What does this show about the effectiveness of Jesus' cleaning of the temple? How do the cross and the resurrection more effectively establish a close relationship between God and His people?
- The bodies of Christians, both individually and corporately, are called the temple of God (1 Cor 6:19, 1 Peter 2:5). However, our 'temple courts' can still be filled with things that stop us drawing near to God. What makes it difficult for God to reveal His glory and draw close to His people (see 2 Chron. 7:13-14)?
- To complete the temple theme, read Revelation 21 and 22 (esp. Rev 21:22). How is this temple idea reformed when God renews all creation?
- What difference does/should all this make to your everyday life when you consider your body as a temple for the Holy Spirit?