



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Jesus Vs the Jews: Flipped Tables, Rebuilt Temples

Bible Reading: John 2:13-22

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

SUMMARY:

John's 'Gospel of Signs' begins with two defining episodes: the Cana wedding signifies blessing and abundance; Jesus is the (secret) hero. In contrast, Jesus' Temple action arouses opposition and hostility. Psalm 69 portends his rejection, shame, and death. The Jewish leaders oppose Jesus; they misunderstand and reject his enigmatic 'sign'— 'Destroy this temple and I'll raise it up in 3 days.' Jesus lost this public honor/shame contest; he's shamed before everyone—going from hero to 'zero.' Will his disciples follow him, sharing both his blessing & his shame? Resurrection vindicates Jesus and enables the disciples' understanding. But, until then, they follow Jesus by faith, lacking full understanding. Even today we don't have all the answers—why did this happen (or not happen)? One day there'll be answers; until then let's walk by faith in the risen Jesus.

Two Episodes—Wedding Wine & Temple Cleansing (2:1-22)

A. Two Episodes presented as a Pair

- "The account of Jesus' actions in the Jerusalem Temple is the *companion piece* to the miracle at Cana."—Craig Koester

B. Contrast: Cana Wedding & Temple Cleansing

The Historicity of Jesus' Temple Action & Declaration

A. An Historical Event & Authentic Saying

1. "There is far-reaching agreement...that Jesus' temple act is historical & his temple saying authentic..."—Jostein Adan

B. Only John's Gospel puts Jesus' action & his saying together

C. John makes the Temple Incident programmatic

Wielding the Whip, Flipping Tables—Jesus' Prophetic Temple Action (2:13-17)

A. Placement: John's placement of the Temple Cleansing (vs. the Synoptics)

B. One Temple-cleansing or Two?

- It's *important not to merge the details* from the various gospel accounts *or to blur the differences...*—George Smiga

C. Jesus' Prophetic Sign—Wielding the Whip, Flipping Tables

D. "Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" (2:16b; Zech. 14:21)

Psalm 69:9 as an Interpretive Key—"Zeal for your house will devour me." (Ps. 69:9; Jn. 2:17)

A. Accessing our Scriptural Memory Storage

B. Remembering the Scriptures (2:17, 22)

C. "Zeal for your house will devour me." (Ps. 69:9 quoted in Jn. 2:17)

D. Psalm 69:6-9 'disgrace, shame, humiliation, dishonor'

- "The allusions of the Ps.[69] citation in 2:17 are about *suffering, estrangement & death, Jesus' death...*"—Ruth Sheridan
- The context "of Ps. 69 makes it obvious...reading the quote...in 2:17, *we should think of Jesus' death.*"—M. J. J. Menken

Showdown in the Temple—Jesus Vs the Jews (2:18-20)

A. Jesus' First Confrontation, with Jewish Leadership

1. Jewish Leaders demand an authenticating Sign (2:18)
2. Jesus Responds with an enigmatic 'sign'—"Destroy this temple & in 3 days I'll raise it up again" (2:19)
3. Ambiguity—common in John
4. The Jews Reject, Rebuff, & Ridicule Jesus proposed sign (2:20)

B. Jesus Vs 'the Jews'—An Honor/Shame Contest (2:18-20)

- It's "*evident to everyone; Jesus lost! He [received] public shame...as a result of the temple-cleansing challenge.*"—Ed. Klink

C. The Jewish Leaders have the 'last word'; they're victorious (cf. Mt. 21:14-17)

D. Jesus lost this public Honor/Shame Contest—Jesus is shamed

- "*Jesus...lost the conflict with the Jews. Everyone knew it: the Jews, the crowd, even the disciples. Jesus lost!*"—Ed. Klink

E. *The Celebration of Shame: From Wine to Whip* (Heb. 12:2; 1 Pet. 4:14)

- "*Jesus has gone from the 'master of the celebratory [wedding] banquet' to the 'shameful [fraud]'*"—Edward Klink

Jesus Enigmatic Sign—"Destroy this temple...in 3 days I'll raise it up again" (2:19)

A. Two Temples—Jerusalem's Temple (2:14-15) & Jesus' own Body (2:19, 21)

B. Jesus answered, 'Destroy this temple, & I'll raise it up in 3 days.' (2:19)

C. "...in 3 days I'll raise it up...He was speaking about *the temple of his body.*" (2:19, 21)

Misunderstanding & Not Understanding Jesus' Temple Saying (2:19)

- “Understanding, misunderstanding & not understanding are important themes in the Fourth Gospel.” –D. A. Carson
- A. ‘The Jews’ misunderstand; the Disciples fail to Understand
- B. Jesus’ Resurrection—the Key to New Understanding
- C. “Between the Temple Event & Jesus’ Resurrection the Disciples did *Not* Understand (2:22)