



OVERVIEW

John 2:13–25 reveals Jesus as Lord of true worship, confronting anything—personal or communal—that distorts God’s purpose and authority. His cleansing of the temple calls both the church and individual believers to renewed reverence, repentance, and faith grounded not in “religious” activity, but in transformed hearts.

OHANA TIME!

 **Icebreaker:** If today were your last day, what would your final meal be? **Or** What Made You Laugh Recently? A show, video, moment, or story.

 **Activity:** Plan a group outing together!

PRAYER

Pray: “Lord Jesus, search our hearts and our church, and cleanse anything that distracts us from loving You fully and worshiping You rightly. Renew us by Your Spirit, that our lives may truly become a dwelling place for Your glory. Amen”

BIBLE: READ JOHN 2:13-25

1. What specific actions does Jesus take in the temple? List them plainly.
2. How does this scene of Jesus compare with other images or expectations people often have of Him?
3. Why was the temple such a central and sensitive place for Jewish religious life?
4. The buying and selling likely served practical purposes for worshippers. Why, then, does Jesus react so strongly? What does Jesus mean when He says, “Stop turning my Father’s house into a market” (v. 16)?
5. How do the disciples interpret Jesus’ actions (v. 17), and what Scripture do they recall?
6. Jesus responds with a statement about destroying and raising “this temple.” Why is this misunderstood? According to John (v. 21), what is the true meaning of Jesus’ words?
7. Many people “believed” because of the signs Jesus performed (v. 23). What does it mean that Jesus “did not entrust himself to them” because He knew what was in their hearts?

APPLICATION

1. In what ways can religious activity or good intentions drift into something that distracts from true worship? What are some signs that activity has replaced devotion—busyness replacing prayer or efficiency replacing reverence? How do we personally guard against equating faithfulness with “doing church things” rather than loving God?
2. Jesus cares deeply about what happens in spaces dedicated to God. How does this challenge how we think about worship—both corporately and personally? What does this passage teach us about God’s concern for reverence, purpose, and integrity in worship?