

The Gospel of John 2:12-22

I Christ Cleansing the Temple

- A. This case of the cleansing of the temple reveals the purpose of life, i.e., that life is for the building of the house of God. Christ is life to us for God's building, God's eternal habitation. Only His life is adequate for producing the materials for God's Building. God's building is organic and comes out of God's life. Only what matches God, can be used to provide a dwelling for God. (**1Cor.3:9b, 12a, 16**)
- B. Once God establishes His House, His temple, He desires to maintain it without defilement, ruin or corruption. This corruption is the result of building with worthless material such as wood, hay and stubble. This material destroys the temple, does not build it up. (**1Cor.3:12b, 17**). To keep it free of corruption, Christ does whatever it takes to purify the Father's house.
1. The Father's house was His heart's desire. When He saw the corrupted situation within the temple, He could not tolerate it, but cleansed it, even with a whip. He was driven by zeal for His Father's house (**John 2:17**) to drive all the defilement out of it. The zeal was eating Him up, even devouring Him. His heart was pure for the Father. He could not suffer to see that the temple, His Father's house, was defiled, contaminated by the things of man's greed. So, He cleansed it
 2. In the same way, Christ does not tolerate the defilements in His people. These are not limited to just personal sins; they also include corporate sins that impact God's testimony, i.e., that ruin God's house, the church, the Body of Christ. He will not allow commerce (**Zech.5:5-11**) to pollute the church. He will also not allow gimmicks, attention-grabbers, or tricks into His Body. (**Acts 8:9, 13, 18-21**)
- C. The Lord dealt with the house of God by cleansing it with a scourge or a whip made of cords. The King James Version says that the Lord made a "a scourge of small cords," but some versions say that the Lord made a scourge or whip out of rushes, which are inexpensive and ordinary.
1. The Lord made a scourge or whip of ordinary things, of rushes, and used it to cleanse the temple. He drove out the oxen, sheep, doves, and coins. That signified the casting out of all earthly occupations. We are the temple of God, yet we are not filled with God. We are filled with so many things other than God. Although we, as the house of God, should be filled with God, yet the fact is that we are filled with merchandise, money, and tables of the money-changers. Therefore, the Lord must make a whip of cords to drive these things out of and from among us.
 2. Often, the Lord uses the ordinary and common things, such as the rushes, to cleanse us. Sometimes He uses someone common to purge you—such as your wife or husband, your parents or children, your employer or employees. We all have experienced the whip of cords which the Lord has made of common persons or ordinary things to purge us. Sometimes the Lord comes to interfere with our lives by turning things upside down. He comes to cast out the sheep, oxen, and doves, and to overthrow the tables in order to bring confusion into the whole situation. For example, last year you gained a lot of money in business, but this year you lose everything—this is a scourge that the Lord uses to purge you.
 3. With every seeking Christian there is always someone or something purging him....Many times the Lord will even use the brothers and sisters in the church as a whip of cords to purge away the merchandise and the money-changers that exist within you.

II The Body of Jesus, the Temple, Destroyed and Raised Up in Resurrection

- A. When Jesus was in the flesh, His body was the tabernacle (**John 11:4**) and temple of God (**John 2:19**), i.e., God's dwelling place. Since Satan realized that the physical body of Jesus was God's dwelling place on earth, he did his best to destroy that body on the cross. The body of Jesus (the temple of God) that was destroyed on the cross was small and weak. But, when He was raised from the dead a new temple was raised up - the Body of Christ and in resurrection this new body is vast and powerful.
- B. After the Lord's resurrection, His Body, that is, the temple, was reared up on a much larger scale. The Body the enemy destroyed by crucifixion was merely the body of Jesus; what was raised by the Lord in resurrection was not only His body, but everyone who is joined to Him by faith (**1Pet.1:3; John 20:17; Eph.2:6**).
- C. The Lord's word is, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (**John 2:19**) The enemy may damage and destroy the church, which is the house of God, but the Lord will build it up in resurrection and by resurrection. After the enemy has caused damage, the Lord, in resurrection, will rear up a building on a much larger scale. The damage done by the enemy is necessary, because everything natural must be destroyed. Only that which is natural can be destroyed by the enemy. Afterward, the Lord will raise up His church in resurrection.
- D. The Lord Jesus is always more prevailing than the enemy. (**1John 4:4**) Do not be frightened by Satan's work. Many times there is no need for us to pray so desperately. Be at peace....No one can frustrate the purpose of the Lord....The more the enemy tries to do, the more he affords the opportunity for the Lord to do something more. Whatever the Lord does is always in resurrection. The Lord builds the temple "in three days," signifying that He builds it in resurrection.