

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>

*Week 5 ~ Exploring John 2:12-25*

## **Personal Study Time:**

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

### **Day 1: Read John 2:12-22 through twice, then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Make copies of the four versions of the story of Jesus' cleansing the temple and compare them (Matt 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22). What are the major similarities and differences? Note at what stage of Jesus' public ministry each account takes place. Do you think that Jesus actually cleansed the temple more than once, or that the various writers placed the story according to their theological purpose? Explain your answer in a paragraph or two.
- There is a difference between uncontrolled rage and righteous indignation. When is it appropriate to be angry about things that are going on in the church? In the lives of family, co-workers, and friends? Is there spiritual danger in exercising righteous indignation?

### **Day 2: Reread John 2:12-22 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Compare 2:13-22 with Psalm 69. Make a list of all the items of similarity you can find. Write out the purpose that you think Jesus had in quoting from this OT chapter.
- Does Jesus' example permit us to use violence at times against wrongdoing? How do you think Jesus would respond if he came upon a bank robbery in progress? A woman being raped? A racially-motivated riot? A rock concert or a bingo game in a church?

### **Day 3: Reread John 2:12-22 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Compare 2:13-22 with John 6:22-35. Again make a list of all the items of similarity you can find. Do you think that the author of the Gospel was drawing a similar lesson from both passages? Explain your answer.
- Originally the sellers in the temple were placed there as a service to help Jews from far away. How is it that useful practices deteriorate into rackets? Are there areas of your life and/or church that have deteriorated or need rethinking? Is your life and/or church cluttered with activities that have outlived their usefulness or even become harmful to spiritual life?

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

**Day 4: Reread John 2:12-22 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- If you compare your spiritual life with the rooms in a house, which room do you think Jesus would most like to clean up? Your reading room? Your dining room (what you eat)? Your recreation room? Your family room (your intimate relationships)? Your bedroom? Your workshop (your use of talents, etc.)? Would you welcome or resist such a clean-up at this time?

**Day 5: Reread John 2:23-25 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Why do you think that Jesus doesn't entrust Himself to these believers? What relationship do you think this passage has with the stories that precede and follow?
- Are there people in your life that you should not entrust yourself to? If so, does that mean that you cannot have any kind of relationship with them? Why? Describe a relationship that allows you to relate to someone without entrusting yourself to them, if that is possible.

**Day 6: Read John 2:23-35 twice and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- In a paragraph or two, what do you think Jesus' ability to read minds and hearts tells us about Him?
- To what degree is it possible for Christians today to have the kind of discernment of others' thoughts, motivations, and feelings that Jesus had? Can you think of any ways to develop our ability to recognize God's leadings and impressions in our lives? How can believers gain a clearer insight into the deceitfulness of their own hearts?

