

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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Put in mind the image of your favorite monument. What is it? Now, what's the worst thing someone could do, to desecrate it? How would you feel, if you witnessed that? What would you do? Now imagine the emotions going on in Jesus as he sees his Father's temple in Jerusalem desecrated – no longer a place of prayer, but a noisy market – and takes the steps necessary to cleanse it. What does Jesus see now, when he looks at us, his “temple?” Is cleansing in order?

1. For what reasons do we design and create monuments? What purpose do they serve?
2. Read John 2:13-22. With the cleansing of the temple as enacted by Jesus in mind, look up Nehemiah 13:9. Describe what is occurring; how is it similar to what Jesus did in our passage from John 2?
3. Turn in your study Bible, discover and describe the true reason for Jesus' anger (and how is it unlike what we usually imagine)?
4. Using your study Bible, consult the other occurrences of this account in the Gospels. What similarities do you note? Differences? What do the notes inform you about the focus of the Gospel writer?
5. Knowing what you do about the Jewish sacrificial system (and if you don't know, go to [this resource for Jewish sacrifices](#) or a resource of your own finding and think about what Jesus might have been communicating, by the cleansing of the temple, about the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you have called us by your Word, and gathered us together by your Spirit. Open our hearts, our hands, and our thoughts to receive the grace you give us today, and enable us to be monuments to that grace that others can see, and know that we have been with you; we pray it in the power of your name, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen.