

**The Gospel of John**

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**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #16**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

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**The Gospel of John**

- John 2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days. 13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 his disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

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**The Gospel of John**

Down to  
Capernaum  
and up to  
Jerusalem?

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### The Gospel of John

- **After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples.**
- Jesus had brothers and sisters – ½ siblings who were the natural born children of Joseph and Mary.
- At this point his brothers did not believe he was the Messiah, but by the time we get to the upper room in Acts 1 they believed in Him.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 7:5 For **not even his brothers believed in Him.**
- Acts 1:14 **All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer,** together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, **and his brothers.**
- Matt 13:55 “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? **And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us?** Where then did this man get all these things?” 5

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### The Gospel of John

- Now why are his brothers traveling with this newly announced rabbi if they don’t believe in him?
- Since we are not told, we are free to guess – given that they all come to believe I think it’s because the Holy Spirit is drawing them.
- Perhaps they were OT believers who had not been convinced their brother was the Messiah. (Acts 19 believers)

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**The Gospel of John**

He went away from there and came to his **hometown**, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and **many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?"** And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, **"A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."** **And he could do no mighty work there,** except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Mark Chapter 6:1-6

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**The Gospel of John**

- Capernaum was the place of so many of Jesus' miracles that it was said of them their unbelief was so egregious that it exceeded that of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **Matt 11:23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.**
- More light, more accountability.

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**The Gospel of John**

- What we will see this morning is not usually referred to as a miracle, so let's just say it is a feat of enormous proportions.
- This time Jesus will not be acting out of compassion like he did in first miracle and like he will do in feeding and healing people.
- This time he is acting out of anger – there is something called "righteous anger" and we are righteously angry when we are angered by the things that anger God.

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### The Gospel of John

- If we can see what is happening around us in our world nearly every day and not be angry at what we see something is amiss with us.
- One of the seldom mentioned benefits of heaven is the absence of sin – Lot, living in Sodom, could more than identify with us.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:8** “for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard”.

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### The Gospel of John

We often hear, “**hate the sin, but love the sinner**” but it is appropriate to be angry with the sinner as we treat them with love – it would be odd not to be angry with them. To not be angry with them would give them victim status as we are absolving them of responsibility.

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### The Gospel of John

- Imagine you came to Christ in a church 30 years ago – the word was being preached, God honoring hymns were sung, and repentance was normal for the day.
- Now you come back 30 years later to find that this church that provided such a great sense of righteousness for you has been corrupted.
- The word is not being preached, the devil’s music now fills the sanctuary, and the building is now mostly a religious looking business. (how would you feel?)

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### The Gospel of John

- Jesus comes to the temple in Jerusalem and sees the blatant corruption of Judaism – he sees the poor oppressed and rich filling their pockets without regret.
- Worse yet he sees the leaders of Israel offering false hope of salvation to those who would seek God and in so doing leading many to destruction.
- If the corruption of one church that meant so much to you made you angry then we should be able to identify with Jesus.

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### The Gospel of John

- Do not think that the Jewish religious leaders were just greedy men who wanted to make a buck – they had become tools of the devil to corrupt the truth.
- When they should have been telling the people, “believe in the coming Messiah, they were telling them, “purchase a lamb from me and all will be well”.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:17** These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. (false teachers of all generations)

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### The Gospel of John

- What Jesus did in Cana was seen by no one and was discovered by just a small village – no where near the scale he will be acting on in the temple grounds.
- What was rather private in Cana would be the opposite of his work in Jerusalem as one man on a holy mission will clear out thousands in the temple grounds of Jerusalem.
- So why this spectacular show of force sort of right out of the gate in his ministry?

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### The Gospel of John

- Bear in mind this was not Jesus’ first look at what was happening in Israel and in that very temple – he had been witnessing it all his life and his contempt was growing.
- How different from his miracle in Cana where he was easing the pain of a young groom who somehow managed to miscalculate how much wine he needed.
- In Cana he was acting in love, in Jerusalem his anger will be on display just as it should have been.

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### The Gospel of John

- Even going back into the Old Testament, it is seen that God was open about his disdain for the animal sacrifices.
- **Isaiah 11:1 “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?” says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.**
- In the mind of God this anger over Judaism becoming a business instead of a religion had been coming for quite some time.

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### The Gospel of John

- According to the text, it would appear that Jesus’ actions at temple that day were not just a knee jerk reaction, but something he had planned to do.
- He was going to defend the name of his Father and he was going to meet out justice to these charlatans who had set up their businesses in his Father’s house.
- He enters the temple in pursuit of these greedy, self-righteous, fake clergymen. ☹

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### The Gospel of John

- **“In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.”**
- He did not just happen upon them, he went looking for them – their businesses were about to be interrupted.
- He knew he would find those who were selling livestock to those they had convinced it was futile to bring their own animals because they would be found unacceptable.<sup>19</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

- If what I just said sounds a little sarcastic, well then you got the picture – the clergy at the temple controlled which animals were (or were not) suitable to be offered.
- So over time the people got the message – sure you could bring an animal to be sacrificed, but since you did not purchase it from them it was going to be turned down.
- One hitch though for the temple clergy – they were forbidden to handle secular money so it had to be converted to temple coins – now enter the money changers.<sup>20</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

- The money changers were allowed to establish their own exchange rate to convert pagan coins to temple coins – how convenient was that? 😊
- Jews from out-of-town were easy prey for the money changers who were thought of as tax collectors since many times the reason for the exchange was the temple tax.
- They would setup shop all over the temple grounds because at Passover there could easily be one million Jews in town needing their services.<sup>21</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

- The Temple complex was roughly 35 acres – 1,550' X 1,000'. That is 5 football fields by 3 football fields.
- Jesus was about to show his power over the hearts and minds of people and even the space they occupied.
- One man will do the impossible for one man – with only a small whip he will force the occupants of the temple grounds to leave their wares behind and go with their proverbial tails between their legs!

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### The Gospel of John

Jesus has a special kind of power that is mostly undetected by mankind .. And we need look no closer than Acts 16:14 *One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.*

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### The Gospel of John

**What happened when Jesus died? The temple veil was torn in two and the graves of the saints in Jerusalem were opened and the dead came forth.**

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## The Gospel of John

- In order to clear the temple with seeming ease he will impose his will on theirs – Those in the temple will go from not wanting to leave to being eager to leave.
- He will change their minds supernaturally with a command to leave and though he was outnumbered by the people and the temple police they leave.
- **Proverbs 28:14** The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

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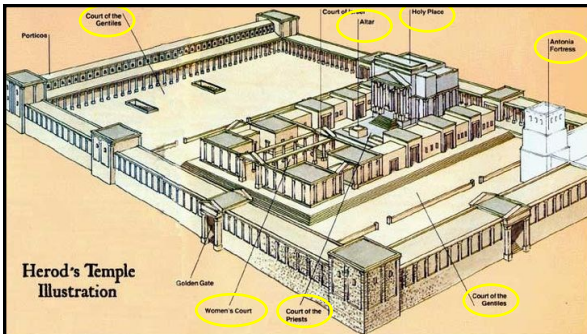
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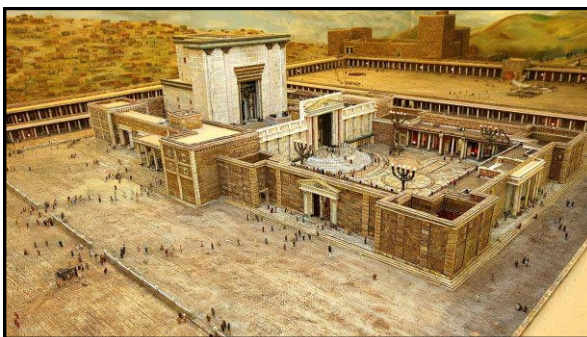
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### The Gospel of John

• “And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.”



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### The Gospel of John

• “His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

• Here is great proof of two things – 1) his disciples were OT believers who studied the scripture and 2) they wholly believed Jesus was the Christ.

• When Jesus was looking for those to train, he wasn’t looking for new converts, he was looking for solid men who already had a strong foundation.

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### The Gospel of John

• Jesus was angered at how lightly his Father was regarded and at how corrupt Judaism had become.

• His attack in the temple was not to hurt people, it was to hurt the system that was damning people.

• In our day Christianity seems to have nearly the same problems Judaism had – a casualness towards God and an inordinate desire for money and fame.

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The Gospel of John

As you survey our culture and its churches what angers you?

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Questions?

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