



Cleansing the Temple

Lesson Overview

1. Critical Thinking

What does loving others look like? Answer questions and discuss.

2. Watch a Video

Watch John 2:13-22 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from 16min 20sec to 19min 30sec (3min 10sec).

3. Discuss

Discuss Jesus' actions. p. 2.

4. Learn About the Temple

New Church Concept Zeal and Anger

"Zeal" is spiritual heat, and spiritual heat is the affection of love.... "Zeal" in the Lord is not anger, it only appears so in externals, interiorly it is love. It appears so in externals, because the Lord seems to be angry when He rebukes humankind, especially when the evil people do punishes them. It is so permitted from love, that a person's evil may be removed; just like a parent, who, if he loves his children, suffers them to be punished for the sake of removing their evils. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 216

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 8 | Gospel of John

What does loving others look like?

Read through this list of actions. Put a check in the box next to actions that express love and an X next to expressions that are clearly not expressions of love.

- Parents reprimand a child for doing something the child was told not to do.
- Someone lends money to another person.
- A person is upset and so says something that makes another person feel stupid in front of others.
- Someone eats all the chocolate—when they know others would like it too.
- A person cruelly puts down someone who has not done what was asked of her.
- A person buys a gift for someone.
- Married partners kiss.
- A person cleans the house even though they've not been asked to do it.
- A person who has just been insulted hits the person who offended him.
- Someone hugs a small child who has been hurt.

Discuss your answers.

1. Why do people who love each other express their love by means of a kiss?
2. Why is a hug often an appropriate expression of comfort?
3. How can the Lord show He loves you?

Watch a Video

After the "sign" or miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana, Jesus went to the capital city, Jerusalem, for the Passover. The temple in Jerusalem was the only place where Jews were to worship. (Jews did not worship in local synagogues—these were gathering places where scripture was read and discussed.)

Watch John 2:13-22 from *The Life of Jesus . Official Full HD Movie . English*, online at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start video at 16min 20sec and watch until 19min 30sec; 3min 10sec.**

Discuss

Have copies of the Word available for students to use during the discussion.

Choose a few questions for discussion.

1. In what ways was Jesus showing His love for humankind by his actions?
2. Who was helped by this action?
3. If you had been a Jew in the temple when Jesus threw out the money changers how might you have reacted?
4. Jesus' actions in this story are widely thought to be His only show of violence during His lifetime. Why was it critically important for Him to deliver His message this way?
5. What part of us is like a 'temple'? How might we make the 'house of prayer' in ourselves a 'den of thieves'?
6. What picture of God do Jesus' actions give us? A harsh judgmental God—like the Old Testament God? A reformer trying to correct the wrong behavior of His people? Or something else?
7. What was Jesus referring to when He said He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days?
8. How might you respond if you walked into church and found it was being used corruptly? Would you have the courage to stand up and do something about it?

*Option: Read *A Brief History of the Temple in Jerusalem* below. The only legitimate place for Jewish worship, the temple was critically important. How does knowing this shed light on what Jesus did?*

A Brief History of the Temple in Jerusalem

Two Jewish temples have existed in Jerusalem. Each temple was the center of Jewish life and worship in its time. The **First Temple** was built in the 10th century BC by King Solomon on Mount Moriah, or the "Temple Mount." It was to be a permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant containing the Ten Commandments. It replaced the tent or tabernacle of worship used by the children of Israel during their wanderings. *It was the only place Jews were allowed to worship.*

After Solomon's death the kingdom was divided in two. Israel became the northern kingdom and Judah became the southern kingdom. Jerusalem became Judah's capital. In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple, seized its treasures, and took the Jews into captivity in Babylon.

Fifty years later, in 538 BC, the Jews returned from exile and rebuilt the temple. This **Second Temple** was completed in 516 BC. It was larger and grander than the first temple and was considered an architectural masterpiece.

Difficult times followed. Foreign rulers broke the Jewish worship laws. A Greek priest was brought into the Temple. The Torah (the five books of Moses) was forbidden. Pigs were sacrificed. The Maccabees (Jewish warriors) fought and finally regained control of the temple.

In 70 AD Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed by the Romans. Once again the Jews were enslaved and sent into exile. Since then the temple has not been rebuilt. To this day Jews pray for the temple to be restored. The destruction of the First and Second Temples is commemorated by the breaking of a glass during Jewish wedding ceremonies. **The Western Wall**, a retaining wall of the Second Temple, is all that remains today. It is often called "The Wailing Wall" because it became a center of mourning over the destruction of the Temple and Israel's exile.

Two things represented the Lord as to the Divine Human: the temple and the altar. That His Divine Human was represented by the temple, the Lord teaches in John: Jesus said, Take apart this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. He spoke of the temple of His body (John 2:19, 21). The altar represented the Lord in respect to His Divine good; whereas the temple represented Him in respect to His Divine truth, thus in respect to heaven; for the Divine truth that proceeds from the Lord makes heaven. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9714.2

The temple of Jerusalem was built of whole uncut stones.... For by the temple of the Lord was represented the Lord as to Divine truth. That the Lord was represented by the temple, and that He was represented as to the Divine truth, was because this truth was taught there, for which reason also it was built of stones, because by "stones" was signified Divine truth. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8941

The Lord's Body

The Divine love is also signified by the Lord's "body" in John: Jesus said, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. But He spoke of the temple of His body (John 2:19, 21); the "temple of His body" is the Divine truth from the Divine good. And because His "body" in the supreme sense is the Divine good of the Lord's Divine love, therefore all who are in heaven are said to be "in the Lord's body." *Arcana Coelestia* 6135