
WRECKING RELIGION:

How Jesus Ruins Everything

#TMHWreckingReligion 

WEEK 2: God in a Box

(Part 16 in the continuing series "Jesus by John")

APPETIZER – The Significance of the Jerusalem Temple

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.
~ The Apostle Paul's sermon to Greeks in Athens (Acts 17:24-25)

RELIGION: Any system of belief, behaviour, and belonging that we put between us and God.



MAIN COURSE – Renewing & Replacing the Temple

John 2:13-25

For he is our peace, the one who made both groups into one and who destroyed the middle wall of partition, the hostility, when he nullified in his flesh the law of commandments in decrees
~ See The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:14-22

Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a den of thieves.
~ Mark 11:17

TAKE OUT – Visiting the Temple Today

1 Kings 8:10-11 vs. Acts 2:1-4

1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Peter 2:5

You are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.
~ The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 2:5)

Dear God,
I want to be part of your temple on earth. I believe in Jesus and I want to learn from him as my Lord, my Leader, my Mentor, my Master. I ask that you cleanse me, forgive me, and fill me with your Presence. I am ready to trust you, follow you, and live for you. Thank you for giving me a fresh start, and a new family.
Amen.



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Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Which story about Jesus from John 2 interests and attracts you more – the story about the wine or the whip? Why?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Read **John 2:13-25**.
 - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday's message) stands out to you? Why?
 - b. What do you think is the significance of these events happening during the celebration of Passover?
 - c. What is the problem listed in **verse 14** that causes Christ's action in **verse 15**? Talk about why that was a problem (see **Mark 11:17** for a clue). Why is this so unacceptable to Jesus?
 - d. Jesus refers to his own body as the Temple. What characteristics and functions of the Temple is Jesus saying are now found in him?
 - e. Why wouldn't Jesus trust some of the people who trusted in him?
 - f. Some people raise the Temple cleansing story as a reason for not living out the peace teachings of Jesus. Their line of reasoning runs: "This story shows that Jesus wasn't a pacifist, so we can't expect his followers to be either." How would you respond to this idea?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

3. Your body as an individual is God's Temple. If Jesus came to cleanse this temple today, what do you think he would want to drive out?
4. You are one living stone together with other Christians that make up God's temple. If Jesus came to cleanse this temple today, the temple of your relationships with other believers, what do you think he would want to change?

November 17/24 || @bruxy

Quotes...

Jesus was not busy with a religious revival; he was busy with a revolution — a revolution in religion, in politics, and in everything else.
~ Albert Nolan

The temple action is Jesus' most defining gesture. To grasp the cleansing of the temple is virtually tantamount to grasping the historical Jesus himself.
~ Nicholas Perrin

Jesus' actions challenged everything that the temple in Jerusalem stood for. He was claiming to do and be exactly what the temple was and did.
~ N.T. Wright

If Jesus' body is the Temple of God, do we realize what we have in Jesus?
~ Frederick Dale Bruner

Jesus throws the mechanics of temple worship into chaos, disrupting the temple system during one of the most significant feasts of the year. This is a serious challenge to religion.
~ Gail R. O'Day

Is this, then, a kind of messianic manifesto in action? It is difficult to interpret it otherwise, for it seems to announce not just a judgment upon corrupt and dishonest religion, but a judgment upon the whole apparatus of organized religion.
~ Lesslie Newbigin

What Jesus does in the temple is nothing short of a revolution. Religion is replaced with worship in spirit and truth.
~ Gary M. Burge

The Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.
~ Stephen, the first Christian martyr

Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.
~ Jesus