

Getting the Story Straight. John 2:13-25

Why did the Jews Misunderstand Jesus' Mission and How Do We Get it Right?

Step 1: John 2:13-25 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."

Jesus is angry that the Temple, because God's House, was turned into a market. Jews had the temple for 957 B.C. until the time of Jesus but was destroyed in 70 A.D. Jews had the temple for 1027 years. They missed the point.



Our danger, we have had the church for 1991 years, and many still miss the point.

We do not exist to be entertained.
The building and décor are not sacred or even vital.
tradition is not sacred.
to be inwardly focused.
not dictate the ministry.
is an abomination.
the opposite of our purpose.

We Exist To know Jesus.
We Exist To Grow in Jesus.
We Exist To Share Jesus with others.
We Exist To be Jesus' Body and Voice in this World
We Exist To Win the Lost.
We Exist To Make Disciples.
We Exist To Proclaim the Truth for the World.

Step 2: ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Take a look at this picture. Optical illusions are a fun game to play.

However Optical illusions that distract us from Jesus, are a disaster.



The Jews of Jesus day saw the temple as the presence of God. But Even though they claimed it was about Yahweh their practices and priorities told another story.

Listen closely: while the NT tells us to be gracious and loving, which it true, too many have forfeited his zeal and righteous anger. Biblical Zeal is single focused energy. Biblical Anger is to be normal at sinfulness, brokenness, deception, distortions and bad theology.

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." What is the point? ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

JESUS IS THE REAL AND ONLY TEMPLE! It's all about Him. That is precisely why he had to die to wash away our sins, defeat death and the power of the devil.

Hebrews 10:10 (NLT) is an astounding *For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, **ONCE FOR ALL TIME.*** Jesus alone is the one we are to submit to, to worship, to proclaim and to pursue for the rest of our lives.

This is precisely why we must thoroughly examine the scriptures before we whole heartedly adopt a new or popular idea or teaching.

Many of my Christian friends are excited and teaching about the temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem. I have four major questions as I review the whole word of God:

1. Is it consistent with the entire Bible and what Christians have proclaimed the last 2000 years?
2. Why would God the Father and God the Son Jesus confuse the world with an obsolete sacrificial system that the book of Hebrews states is over and done forever?
3. Would it be God the Father's will that this new temple, in his name, return to a sacrifice for forgiveness, therefore bypassing Jesus?
4. Why does the NT book of Hebrews say that any sacrifices beyond the shed blood of Jesus are meaningless.

Let's put this in Biblical context: **What does Hebrews 10: 1-10 say?**

- The Bible is clear: All people must come to Jesus and surrender to Him alone.
- Jesus has said "*I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me.*"
- Is there any other way beyond Jesus?

²³ *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.*

Sadly many believed in Jesus but for the wrong reasons. We must always be careful not to believe in a Jesus who fulfills our expectations. During Jesus time on earth the common concept of the Messiah was a warrior King like King David. Jesus, the sacrificial lamb of God, was the last thing they expected.

²⁴ *But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*

I have made several discoveries about my relationship with Jesus that I want to share with you:

1. I don't tell Jesus what to do, he tells me!
2. There are no surprises in heaven over Tom's behavior or choices.
3. Jesus knows the whole story of life and eternity. I know a fraction of the story.
4. Jesus doesn't add up my sins or failure only giving me 490 times to repent.
5. He does not need me as your pastor to accomplish his will.
6. My insight and logic does not change Jesus' will.
7. Jesus has never said, "There he goes again!"
8. Jesus knows the beginning from the end. I barely know the next ten minutes.

We are always in danger of not getting the story straight unless we:

- Humble ourselves before the Word of God every time we open the Bible.
- We thoroughly check out what any preacher or teacher says with what the Bible says.
- We make His purpose: To Know Him, To Grow in Him, and Share Him with Others the only real priority of our lives.

THIS IS HOW WE GET IT RIGHT!