

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide

Destroy This Temple

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Major Points

- 1 The temple marketplace replaced authentic worship with convenience, and no one cared except Jesus—just as modern believers prioritize comfort over genuine devotion.**
John 2:14-16
- 2 Jesus' zeal for His Father's house consumed Him, fulfilling messianic prophecy and costing Him relationships—true worship always costs something.**
Psalm 69:8-9
- 3 When Jesus said 'Destroy this temple and I will raise it up in three days,' He revealed that His body—His death and resurrection—is the only prescribed way to worship God.**
John 2:19-21
- 4 After the resurrection, the disciples finally understood and believed—Jesus is the worthy Savior, Lord, and the only way to the Father.**
John 2:22

Key Quotes

- "It's a lot better to make worship convenient, isn't it? It's nice to have convenience in worship.*
at 11:31
- "He wasn't violent, but he was demonstrative. He wasn't insensitive, but he was determined. He wasn't sinful, but he was dogmatic.*
at 25:20
- "But that temple pales in comparison to Emmanuel, God with us.*
at 39:44
- "He's not convenient. He's not interested in your selfish ways. He's not selfish desires and your time constraints and you're worried about cold or hot or comfort. He's not interested in that. He's interested in your heart.*
at 42:25
- "High time some of us listen. High time.*
at 27:43

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Cooper pointed out that no one except Jesus was bothered by the buying and selling in the temple courts. Why do you think it's so easy for us to normalize things in our worship that might

actually be displacing genuine worship of God?

2. The sermon drew a strong connection between the convenience of temple commerce and our own tendencies toward convenient worship—sleeping in, preferring comfort, making excuses. What are some specific ways you've caught yourself prioritizing convenience over wholehearted worship?

3. Pastor Cooper emphasized that Jesus cleansed the temple twice—once at the beginning and once at the end of his ministry. What does that repetition tell us about God's persistence and about our tendency to drift back into the same patterns?

4. When Jesus said 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days,' the Jewish leaders completely missed his meaning. How does this misunderstanding illustrate the difference between being focused on outward religious structures and understanding the heart of what God is doing?

5. Pastor Cooper said that Jesus 'wasn't violent, but he was demonstrative; he wasn't insensitive, but he was determined; he wasn't sinful, but he was dogmatic.' How does this picture of Jesus challenge the way we sometimes think about standing up for truth and right worship in our own lives and communities?

Word Studies

ζῆλος

zēlos

Greek

An intense, consuming passion or fervor—here denoting a holy, all-consuming devotion to God's honor rather than mere human anger or jealousy.

ἐγερῶ

egerō

Greek

To raise up or awaken, used both of erecting a building and of resurrection from the dead, creating the deliberate double meaning Jesus intended.

ναός

naos

Greek

The inner sanctuary or dwelling place of deity, as distinct from the broader temple complex (hieron), emphasizing the sacred space where God's presence resides.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Paul applies the temple imagery to believers' bodies, extending Jesus' identification of his body as the true temple to all who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit—connecting the call to honor God with our physical lives.

Malachi 3:1-3

The Lord's sudden coming to his temple to purify the sons of Levi prophetically anticipates Jesus' temple cleansing, showing that the Messiah was always expected to come and purge corrupt worship.

Isaiah 56:7

God's declaration that his house shall be 'a house of prayer for all peoples' provides the Old Testament foundation for Jesus' anger that the Court of the Gentiles—the space for non-Jewish worshippers—had been turned into a marketplace.

Hebrews 10:19-22

The new and living way into God's presence through Jesus' body (the veil) directly develops the theology Pastor Cooper highlighted—that Christ's destroyed and risen body is now the sole prescribed means of access to God.

Exodus 12:5-7

The original Passover instructions about selecting an unblemished lamb and applying its blood to the doorposts typologically foreshadow Christ as the perfect sacrifice, reinforcing the Passover context in which Jesus cleansed the temple.

Further Reading

- **The Jesus of the Gospels**
by Andreas J. Köstenberger

- **Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist**

by John Piper

- **The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God**

by G. K. Beale

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
John 2:13-22	Referenced	1:59	<i>The Jewish Passover was near, and Jesus went up to...</i>
Psalms 69:8-9	Read Aloud	28:33	<i>I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien ...</i>
Psalms 69:21	Referenced	28:08	
John 14:6-7	Read Aloud	38:49	<i>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, a...</i>
John 6:35	Read Aloud	44:11	<i>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoev...</i>
Luke 14:26	Referenced	23:42	
2 Peter 3:9	Referenced	0:01	
John 2:1-11	Referenced	3:49	
Exodus 12:1-30	Referenced	10:18	
John 2:15	Read Aloud	9:43	<i>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out ...</i>
John 2:16	Read Aloud	27:08	<i>And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take thes...</i>
John 2:17	Read Aloud	27:28	<i>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zea...</i>
Psalms 69:9	Referenced	27:48	
John 2:18	Read Aloud	30:31	<i>So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us...</i>
John 2:19	Read Aloud	31:21	<i>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in ...</i>
John 2:20	Referenced	32:01	
John 2:21	Read Aloud	36:13	<i>But he was speaking about the temple of his body.</i>
John 2:22	Read Aloud	40:49	<i>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his di...</i>
John 6:36-39	Read Aloud	44:31	<i>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do...</i>
John 6:40	Read Aloud	45:00	<i>For this is the will of my Father, that everyone w...</i>
Philippians 1:21	Referenced	45:39	