

19 June

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 6

 Let's hear your story

1. What were the names of Jesus' half-brothers? (See Matt.13:55-56.).
2. What were the requirements for Passover? (See Exodus 12:3 – 9.).
3. What did Jesus find in the temple according to John 2:14? (People selling oxen, sheep, pigeons and the money-changers.).
4. How did Jesus respond in v.15? (He made 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.).

 Let's go deeper

5. Can you name the Messianic prophecy of v.17? (See Psalms 69:9.).
6. How did Jesus respond to the Jews asking Him for a sign in v.18? (Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.).
7. What was Jesus speaking about? (The temple of His body. See v.21).
8. How did Jesus fulfil the sign He spoke about in v.21? (Through His death, burial and resurrection – see v.22.).
9. What made people to belief in the name of Jesus according to v.23? (When they saw the signs, He was doing.)

 Let's apply this

10. John 2:15; 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.

- Have you been a lazy worshipper, who takes shortcuts?
- Have you been choosing comfort and convenience over faith?
- What changes can you make to return to pure worship of King Jesus?
- Speak to your life group leader this week to help you with your decisions.

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 6 (Pure worship)

Read: John 2:12 – 25

v.12; Mary, the mother of Jesus had other children. Matt.13:55 – 56 and Mark 6:3, names four of Jesus' half brothers and mentions that Jesus had sisters. Other scriptures that mention that Mary had children are; John 7:5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor.9:5; Galatians 1:19; Acts 12:2; Matt.1:24 – 25 and Luke 2:7 and Psalm 69:8.

v.13; The Passover requirements are explained in Exodus 12:3 – 19.

v.3; Each household bring a one-year-old lamb (the sacrifice must cost you).

v.5; Without blemish or defect to God (you must bring your best lamb).

v.15; Remove leaven out of your house (symbolic of removing sin from your life).

v.15; Eat unleavened bread for 7 days (symbolic of purifying self before worship).

v.14; This is a tremendous problem. Jesus walks into the temple and it is like an out-of-control market. People were told to bring their own sacrifices to God to be offered, but they decided that's complicated and difficult. So, they found a better way, a shortcut to do this. They just show up at the temple with money in their pockets, because they know there will be someone who will sell what they need. And they pay someone else to do what they were supposed to do.

There are four problems with this religious system of worship:

The people were supposed to bring their own sacrifice.

Business replaced a need that worshippers were supposed to fulfil.

Those who helped the priests inspect the animals, over charged the people.

You had to pay temple tax to get into the temple, but it had to be temple coins.

v.15; Jesus is angry. In one hand He has a whip to scatter all the animals and send them to freedom. With His other hand all the moneychangers' tables are being thrown into the air and money is scattered everywhere.

v.16 – 25; They challenge the authority of Jesus Christ. He's not talking about the physical temple. He's talking about His own body. He's talking about His own death and resurrection. Jesus says, "You want to see a miracle? "Kill me. And I will raise up in three days.

Why was Jesus so angry?

The corruption was very bad, but the location of this corruption was most painful.

The closest a non-Jew could come, was the court of the gentiles and there they were supposed to hear about love, and the religious leaders turned it into business.

And your first impression of God is all He cares about is my money, and God is a crook, corrupt and His leaders are not helping, they ignore me.