



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 6

Preacher: Paul Madson

Text: John 2:13-25

Summary:

As the celebration of Passover drew near, Jesus and his disciples went up to Jerusalem. Upon entering the temple, Jesus was greatly angered by the commercial (and exploitative) activity taking place there, and in righteous anger he drove out those who were buying and selling. To prove his right to do this, Jesus then predicts his own death and resurrection – even though his prediction is largely misunderstood by those around him. Finally, Jesus does many great works in Jerusalem and many come to faith – but Jesus knows that such faith is fickle and shallow, so he did not entrust himself to them, reserving his trust for those closest to him.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why do you think Jesus was so upset about what he saw going on in the Temple? Was his anger righteous or unrighteous? Why? What about his use of violence (v. 15)?
3. Application: Think about the last time you were angry. Was it righteous or unrighteous? What makes your anger different from Jesus' anger? What differentiates righteous anger from unrighteous anger?

4. Read Malachi 3:1-4. How do you see Jesus' activity in the temple in light of this Old Testament prophecy? What other prophetic passages does John link to Jesus in this passage? Why is this important to John's project as a gospel writer? Remember John 20:30-31.

5. What strikes you about the Jews' response to Jesus' disruption (v. 18)? What were they really asking him? Application: What does it look like when you question Jesus' authority in certain areas of your own life?

6. Why do you think Jesus answered so cryptically? What benefit did this answer have for his disciples later on (v. 22)? Notice the very different kinds of belief mentioned in v. 22 and 23. How was the disciples' faith superior to those of the crowds?

7. Application: What's your basis for believing Jesus? Where does your confidence in him come from? Is it the same as the disciples'?

8. Why was it important that this all occurred during the Passover feast? Notice that it's mentioned twice in this short passage...

9. What do vv. 24-25 say about the nature of humanity and our relationship to God, left to our own devices? What does it say about you? And what does it say about the nature of Jesus' love for us?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?