**The Gospel of John:**

**Zeal for Your House**

*John 2:12-17*

**John 2:12-17**—*After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.****13****The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.****14****And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.****15****And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;****16****and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.”****17****His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me.”*

John A’s purpose for writing is both **apologetic** (to prove that Jesus is the Christ) and **evangelistic** (so that you may believe and have life in His name).

**John 20:31**—*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name*

**Context**

**The setting**

* The people were hypocritical and embraced an apostate Judaism

**Isaiah 1:11-20***—*“*What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?” Says the Lord. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.* ***12****“When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?* ***13****“Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.* ***14****“I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them.* ***15****“So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.* ***16****“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil,* ***17****Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.* ***18****“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.* ***19****“If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;* ***20****“But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.” Truly, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

* The event—Passover
1. Celebration commemorating the deliverance of the Hebrew people from Egypt (Exodus 12)
2. God required that they celebrate it annually with other feasts (Exodus 23)
3. He starts and ends His ministry during the Passover
* The main character—Jesus and His contrasting nature
1. Obedience—He fulfilled all righteousness

**Matthew 3:15**—*But Jesus answering said to him,
“Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.*
2. Jesus observes the Passover as He had his whole life
* The historical context of Passover
1. Population of Jerusalem
2. Increased number of people at the Passover
3. Buying and selling for sacrifices
	* 1. Inconvenient to transport and likely not accepted
		2. Moneychangers to convert the currency
			1. For the sacrifice
			2. For the temple tax
4. The angel of death “passed over” Jewish homes in Egypt whose doorposts were sprinkled with blood (Ex 12:23-27)

**Matthew 21:12**—*And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.****13****And He \*said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a robbers’ den.”*

**Jesus’ response**

* Righteous indignation, v 15
* God alone exercises the right to regulate his worship.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* All the people and animals were driven out
* Not cruel, but just and forceful
* There was no riot or actions taken by the Romans
* *Stop making My Father’s house a place of business—the Jews had made the Temple of the Lord a house. Apostate Judaism had become crass and materialistic.[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**John 5:16-18**— *For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.****17****But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”* ***18****For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

* *Zeal for Your house will consume me—the honor of His Father’s house consumed Jesus. He sought to defend His Father’s honor.*

***Psalm 69:9****—For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.*

1. The MacArthur Study Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)