

# The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

April 13, 2025



## When the King Clears the Room

**John 2:13–22** captures one of the most surprising and passionate moments in Jesus' ministry. As the Passover celebration begins, Jesus enters the temple—the most sacred space in Jewish life—and finds it overrun with noise, transactions, and religious hustle. What should have been a house of prayer had become a place of profit. In a bold and holy act, Jesus flips the tables, drives out the merchants, and declares that His Father's house was never meant to be a market. It's not just a moment of cleansing—it's a moment of calling—a reminder that sacred spaces matter, and the heart of worship must be guarded.

## Scripture Reading: John 2:13-22 (NIV)

### Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

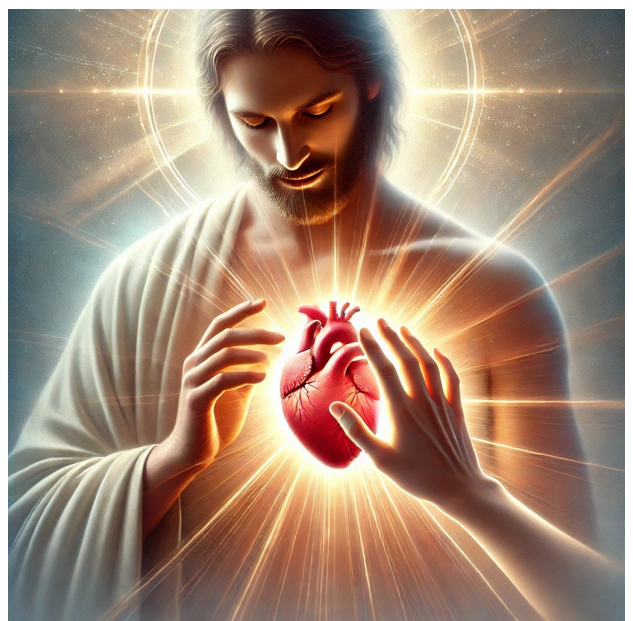
<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

### Here are some interesting facts about John 2:13-22:

- **This is the first public act of Jesus in John’s Gospel.** While the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) place the temple cleansing at the end of Jesus’ ministry, John places it at the very beginning—signaling the kind of Messiah Jesus came to be.
- **Jesus made a whip.** Verse 15 says He made a whip out of cords—indicating this wasn’t a sudden outburst, but a deliberate, measured act of righteous passion.
- **The temple courts had become commercialized.** Merchants were selling animals for sacrifice and money changers were exchanging currency, turning the temple into a religious marketplace. This corrupted the spiritual purpose of the space.
- **The Court of the Gentiles was the likely location.** This was the only place in the temple where non-Jews could come and pray—yet it had been overrun with business. Jesus’ actions defended the inclusion of outsiders in worship.
- **Jesus calls it “My Father’s house.”** In verse 16, Jesus refers to the temple as “*My Father’s house*,” asserting a unique and intimate relationship with God—one that outraged the religious leaders.
- **Psalm 69 is quoted.** The disciples recall the verse: “*Zeal for your house will consume me.*” This messianic psalm speaks to both Jesus’ passion and the cost of His mission.



- **Jesus points to Himself as the new temple.** In verse 19, Jesus cryptically says, “*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.*” He was speaking about His body, foreshadowing His death and resurrection.
  - **The Jewish leaders misunderstand.** They think He’s talking about the physical temple, which took 46 years to build—highlighting a recurring theme in John: Jesus speaks spiritually, and the crowd interprets literally.
  - **This scene reveals Jesus’ authority early.** He doesn’t wait for approval or credentials—He walks in with divine authority, demonstrating that He is not just a teacher, but One who shapes and redefines worship.
  - **It foreshadows the shift from a physical temple to a spiritual one.** After Jesus’ resurrection, believers would become the temple—the dwelling place of God’s Spirit. This moment plants that theological seed early in John’s Gospel.
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The temple cleansing in **John 2:13–22** echoes several powerful **Old Testament references**—both directly and thematically. Here are a few key ones that give deeper context to Jesus’ actions:

1. **Psalm 69:9 – Zeal for Your House**

*“Zeal for your house has consumed me...”*

Quoted directly in John 2:17, this verse speaks of passionate devotion to God’s dwelling place. It’s a prophetic image of the Messiah’s commitment to restoring true worship.

2. **Isaiah 56:7 – A House of Prayer for All Nations**

*“...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

This verse underscores Jesus’ frustration—commerce in the Court of the Gentiles blocked non-Jews from worshipping. Jesus’ actions defend God’s inclusive design for worship.

3. **Jeremiah 7:11 – Den of Robbers**

*“Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?”*

While not quoted in John, this verse is cited in the Synoptic Gospels’ account of the temple cleansing (e.g., Matthew 21:13). It critiques those who exploit worship for personal gain.

4. **Malachi 3:1–3 – The Lord Will Suddenly Come to His Temple**

*“Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple... He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.”*

This prophecy anticipates a purifying visitation of the Lord to the temple—fulfilled vividly as Jesus clears it out, calling people back to holiness.

5. **Exodus 12 – The Passover Context** Though not a direct reference in John 2, the entire scene happens during **Passover**, connecting Jesus to the greater redemption story. Just as Passover marked deliverance from Egypt, Jesus now steps forward as the Lamb who will bring a greater deliverance.



### Quiz: "Clearing the Temple – How Well Do You Know John 2:13–22?"

1. What major Jewish festival was happening when Jesus went to the temple?  
A. Feast of Tabernacles  
B. Day of Atonement  
C. Passover  
D. Pentecost
2. What did Jesus find in the temple courts?  
A. Roman soldiers  
B. Street preachers  
C. People selling animals and exchanging money  
D. A worship band
3. What item did Jesus make before clearing the temple?  
A. A staff  
B. A robe  
C. A whip out of cords  
D. A clay jar
4. True or False: Jesus was angry because people were dancing in the temple.
5. What phrase did Jesus use to describe the temple in verse 16?  
A. "My sanctuary"  
B. "God's dwelling"  
C. "My Father's house"  
D. "The holy of holies"



6. What Old Testament verse is quoted by the disciples in this passage?  
A. Psalm 23  
B. Isaiah 9:6  
C. Psalm 69:9  
D. Exodus 12:1
7. What confused the Jewish leaders about Jesus' words?  
A. They thought He was calling Himself a king  
B. They misunderstood what "temple" He was talking about  
C. They didn't know it was Passover  
D. They thought He was quoting Moses
8. Open-ended: Why do you think Jesus chose to act so boldly in this moment?
9. How many days did Jesus say it would take to raise the temple if destroyed?  
A. 7 days  
B. 1 day  
C. 3 days  
D. 40 days
10. Open-ended: What does it mean that *you* are now the temple of God?

### Answer Key

1. C. Passover
2. C. People selling animals and exchanging money
3. C. A whip out of cords
4. False
5. C. "My Father's house"
6. C. Psalm 69:9
7. B. They misunderstood what "temple" He was talking about
8. *Open-ended*
9. C. 3 days
10. *Open-ended*

## Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

\*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader:

Come, all who are weary and distracted,  
Come, all who are seeking peace and presence—  
Today, we make space for the King.

**People:**

**We open our hearts.**

**We quiet our thoughts.**

**We make room for Jesus.**

Leader:

He is the One who enters not just cities, but souls.  
He comes to clear out what clutters, and to restore what's sacred.

**People:**

**This is His house.**

**This is His moment.**

**We welcome Him with worship.**

Leader:

Let every heart be His temple.  
Let every breath become praise.  
Let us worship the One who makes us holy.

**All Together:**

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Clear the room.**

**Fill this space.**

**And be glorified.**

Children's Message

**\*Lift High the Cross, p.159 UMC Hymnal**

**Scripture Reading: John 2:13-22**

**Sermon: When the King Clears the Room**

Offertory - UMC Choir

\*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus, p.297 UMC Hymnal**

## **\*Affirmation of Fatih**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
the Son of the Living God—  
who walked into the temple and saw more than noise.  
He saw hearts that needed healing,  
and sacred space that needed restoring.**

**We believe He does the same today.**

**He enters the crowded corners of our lives,  
not to condemn, but to clear the way  
for prayer, peace, and presence.**

**We believe we are now His temple—  
not by our strength, but by His Spirit.**

**He lives within us, shapes us, and makes us holy ground.**

**We believe in the power of Christ  
to overturn what is broken,  
restore what is lost,  
and fill every surrendered space with glory.**

**This is our faith. This is our hope. This is our King. Amen.**

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Alas and Did My Savior Bleed, p.294 UMC Hymnal**

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

**Upcoming Events:**

April 13 - 10am Birthday Celebration

April 17- 7pm Maundy Thursday Service -Pastor Amy preaching at Jefferson UMC

April 18 - 7pm Good Friday Service

April 20 - 6:30am - Easter Sunrise Service outside at the Myers Farm at 3514 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson

April 20 - 9am Easter Service in the sanctuary

May 10 - 9am Prayer Meeting at JUMC

May 17 - 3-5 Paint Day

**Prayer Requests:**

Continue to pray for Kennedy's recovery after having oral surgery this past Wednesday.



## Sermon Insights

### Sermon Lesson:

John 2:13–22 reminds us that Jesus is not afraid to step into the places we consider sacred and challenge what's gone off course. When He enters the temple and sees it cluttered with noise, commerce, and distraction, He doesn't stay silent—He acts with holy purpose. This moment isn't about anger—it's about restoration. Jesus clears the space not to cast people out, but to reclaim the heart of worship. And today, He does the same with us. Our lives, our hearts, are now His temple. When Jesus comes near, He doesn't come to condemn the mess—He comes to make space for peace, presence, and deeper connection with God. Let Him clear the room.

### Application:

#### **From Lesson 1: Jesus confronts and restores sacred spaces.**

Ask yourself: What sacred areas of my life have drifted?

Maybe it's your prayer life, your time in God's Word, your joy in worship, or your sense of purpose.

Don't be afraid to let Jesus examine those spaces. He doesn't show up with condemnation—He shows up with clarity and compassion.

**Practice:** Set aside 10 quiet minutes this week to ask: "Jesus, what part of my life have I allowed to get crowded?" Write down what He shows you—and invite Him to restore it.

#### **From Lesson 2: Jesus re-centers our hearts toward depth, not distraction.**

We live in a world of constant motion and noise. Even our spiritual lives can become checklists. But Jesus is calling you back to the simplicity of being with Him, not just doing for Him.

**Practice:** Choose one daily habit to slow down this week—turn off the background noise, close the extra tabs, pause the scroll—and spend that time in silence before God. Let Him meet you in the stillness.

#### **From Lesson 3: Jesus redefines us—we are the temple He now fills.**

You are not just a believer—you are a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. That means your life carries weight, purpose, and holiness—not because of what you've done, but because of who lives in you.

**Practice:** Before you start your day, place your hand over your heart and pray: "Jesus, fill this temple today. Shape my thoughts, my words, and my actions. Use me to carry Your presence wherever I go."

### Conclusion:

As we move toward Easter, let's not rush past the Jesus who clears the temple. He is still clearing, still restoring, still re-centering hearts that have gotten cluttered. He does it not to push us away—but to draw us closer. This week, may we welcome His presence with open hands and surrendered hearts. Let Him restore what's been lost, quiet what's become loud, and remind you of who you truly are—a living temple, filled with the Spirit of the risen King.