



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
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The Gospel of John

Angry Jesus

[John 2:12-24](#)

Related Topics: Mary; Brothers of Jesus; Passover; Preparation for Passover; Leaven; Lazy Worship; Consumer or Worshipper; Sacrifice vs. Convenience; Court of the Gentiles; Anger of Jesus; Authority of Jesus; Resurrection of Jesus; Messianic Prophecy

Each week we begin our time together by reminding ourselves why we have come. We are here because of Jesus. We are here for Jesus.

Without trying to sound redundant, I'm going to ask two questions, the first of which we addressed before we even opened with prayer.

- 1.) Why are you here?
- 2.) What did you bring?

The Lord willing, by His grace these questions will make sense by the end of our time together

¹²After this

TIME STAMP — *“After this”* is a reference to a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee which Jesus and the first five disciples attended.

Amazing, God wanted to come and be with man! ([You shall call His Name Emmanuel which means God with Us](#)). He wanted to be with them when they laughed and were glad (wedding), when they were sorrowful and broken (funeral), when they were sick and needy (lepers/lame/blind). Jesus entered the very **real** and **normal** experiences of life, **but Sanctified them** by His Presence!

Amazing, the first sign/miracle in the public ministry of Jesus was not done on a huge public platform. The first time that Jesus exercised His divine power it was out of sympathy, kindness, and understanding for a Galilean family. Jesus, the Lord of all life, and the King of glory, would point to His divine nature by saving a simple Galilean groom and bride from humiliation.

“AFTER” that miraculous moment of joy we are going to see a stark contrast in His response to what’s happening around him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

Just a quick detour here, how many of you were raised Catholic? We were told that Mary was always a virgin, “Blessed Mary, ever (always) virgin.” They would say, she was always a virgin, isn’t that wonderful kids? Not for Joseph! Joseph would have spent his married life thinking, “*thank you Lord, that’s great, I didn’t mind getting married to a virgin but being married to a virgin is becoming difficult.* Or, “*Thanks Lord, I’ll get married to my wife and I’ll never touch her, that’s not a problem.*”

Here we see that Jesus has brothers. I’ll leave it for you to figure out how that happened. So, Mary was not ever (always) virgin, and Joseph was not ever frustrated, things worked out.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

CRUCIAL OBSERVATION: It was almost time for the feast of Passover. Passover is one of the three major feasts of Israel — Passover — Pentecost and Booths

Deut. 16:16 “*Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths.*”

We remember the Feast of Passover from our study of Exodus. It was a commemoration and a celebration of how God delivered His people from bondage and death and oppression under Pharaoh in Egypt. He freed them so that they could go into the desert and worship him.

The Feast is called “*the Lord’s Passover*” ([Exodus 12:11](#)) because on the night the angel of death passed through the land of Egypt in judgment, God spared the Israelites whose houses were marked by the blood of a lamb that was slain. By God’s grace they were given life instead of death, freedom instead of bondage, hope instead of despair. God told them to remember that night and celebrate His deliverance by keeping the Feast of Passover.

Here in **John 2**, 1,450 years later, they are still celebrating this as a people. Jews from around the world would travel to celebrate this feast. Even today, Jews who cannot make it to Jerusalem for Passover will say, “Next year, Jerusalem.”

In John’s Gospel we find Jesus in Jerusalem for three Passovers. This is the first. The last will be the Last Supper.

As we look at what follows it is crucial that we bear in mind what had to take place in every Jewish home and business. In preparation for the Passover they had to cleanse their home of leaven. Even to this day you see this happen. In the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem bakeries and restaurants close down and they scrub and vacuum, hose out and sweep, out every corner of their building. For that week you can’t get leavened bread anywhere!

The picture in all of this is to clean house in regards to sin. Throughout scripture leaven was a picture of sin. Leaven works by a process of rotting. It only takes the smallest amount of leaven to make dough rise. In the same way sin destroys by rotting a life from the inside out. In the same way it only takes a little bit of sin to rot out a life, a marriage, a family, or a church.

I say all of that because in the city where housecleaning was going on everywhere, the House of God was a spiritual mess! Jesus is going to clean His Father’s House. He is going to deal with the sin of false worship was taking place in the Temple. A few days earlier Jesus turned water to wine, but in this scene He is going to turn over tables.

¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

Jesus walks into the temple and it is like an out of control livestock market. There are animals making noise. There are people exchanging money. There are negotiations going back and forth like a flea market, He actually uses the word emporium (v.16).

Most read this passage and conclude, it’s all about religion gone bad, mixing money and religion, religious professionals fleecing the flock for money. All of that is true, but it’s not quite that simple. Those things are the results of the rotting process. Let’s look at the leaven that had caused the rot.

I believe that the real leaven is lazy worship. That is the real problem in this story.

Let me read to you again from **Deuteronomy 16**.

*Deut. 16:16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. **They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.**”*

Every male above the age of 19 was to appear before the Lord. They were not to just merely show up, they were supposed to bring their sacrifices to God for their celebration. The various animals in this chaotic scene are the animals that God had

designated to be offered as sacrifices. But, according to scripture, people were supposed to **raise** their own sacrifice and **transport** their own sacrifice. In failing to do that, in their laziness, they created the environment in which commercialism could thrive in the House of the Lord.

Follow me here, as an adult male Israelite you were supposed to **raise** an animal. It was supposed to be an unblemished animal. **That means** that it was the **best** of your livestock. **That means** that it had **tremendous value** to you. In many cases that animal became like a pet to you, a small lamb that you watched as it is born, you fed it and nursed it and cared for it, your kids played with it. It was **your responsibility** to **carry it all the way** to the temple, so that it could be **slaughtered** and its blood poured out before the Lord.

Huge point here, if you were going to offer a sacrifice, it was **supposed to cost** you something. It was **supposed to be** dear to you, beautiful, the best that you had, valuable. It was supposed to be a **personal sacrifice**, something that **you gave** at a **great cost**. Not only that, you were supposed to transport it yourself. It was **not convenient** to take an animal and travel on foot for 30 or 40 or 50 miles **up** to Jerusalem, let alone travel from another country.

Here's what happened. There were a lot of people who said, *"You know, that's difficult. Raising a lamb from birth, keeping it without any cuts or scrapes is a real burden. Let's leave the best of our animals, the ones that are dearest and most valuable to us at home and travel light. We will just show up with money in our pockets and go through the drive-thru — get a lamb to go! Then, we can go in and have the high priest sacrifice the animal. Then, the blood can be shed to show what needs to happen for our sins to be forgiven."*

Lazy worshippers, blowing off what God has said, blowing off their responsibility of raising their sacrifices, transporting them, and calling it worship. They want to pay someone else to do what they were supposed to do.

That same problem exists in the church today, people believe that whoever is paid and called pastor is responsible for everything that is to be done.

So here is the first of three problems, people who had become lazy and wanted to worship God without working. They wanted **convenience**. This is the hallmark of the modern age. Churches try to attract people by promising that they will get you in and out with **as little inconvenience**, with **as minimal cost**, as possible. That is fine for In-N-Out or McDonald's, but not for Jesus Christ. **Convenient worship is an insult to God!** The Incarnation was not a convenience. The Cross was not a convenience. The Kingdom of God is not a Kingdom of convenience!

So this entire scene has its beginnings with people who want **worship without sacrifice** and worship that is **convenient**.

THE SECOND PROBLEM

As a result of the first problem there is a second problem. The leaven of lazy worship produced **the rot** of a **consumer culture** in the House of the Lord. A business has come in to existence to provide for the people what the people were supposed to bring. Because they were businessmen, not worshippers, the rates become insane. William Barclay says that the cost of a dove on the temple grounds was as much as 20x its actual value! Can you believe that? If you've ever been to Disneyland you can. The simple question, "*Daddy, can I have a coke?*" kills you because you know that buying that coke is about the equivalent of a car payment and lunch for the family is like a house payment. But they've got you. That is exactly what is happening on the Temple mount.

Tragic, the outcome of lazy worship is that it ended up robbing the poor of an opportunity to really worship God. If you were poor, you couldn't afford to worship. You can't afford to come in and pay 20x value for something in order to worship.

THE THIRD PROBLEM

If you were faithful to the Lord and actually raised the animal for sacrifice and then dealt with the inconvenience of bringing it to the temple, it had to be tested and approved by the people that worked for the High Priest to make sure that it was without spot or blemish. So, you carry **your** lamb, the one you watched as it was born, raised and nursed and got attached to, kept it from hurting itself, carried it 20 miles so that you can give it as an act of worship to the Lord, you lay it down and the guy inspects it and says, "*Nope, that one won't do. But, we have some nice ones for sale over here.*" You look at the one they're trying to sell you and it isn't nearly as nice as yours, looks scruffy and skinny, unloved and uncared for. Only the one being sold to you has already been inspected and tagged. It's already preapproved. *Such a deal, "we'll even carry it up the Temple steps for you," nice and convenient.* This is all about commerce, business. And there is more going on than just the sale of "certified sacrificial animals." Jesus walks in and he sees money changers, a currency exchange.

Please don't misunderstand me here, if you are a businessman, I'm not saying that you are ungodly or evil if you are making a profit. But, I am saying that there is a problem in extorting money from God's people, and that's exactly what is happening here.

The male Israelite over the age of 19 would have to give anywhere from 27-29% of his income to the Lord; First fruits, tithes, offerings, feasts, special Sabbaths. But now, if you want to go into Jerusalem, into the temple, to worship God you had to pay the Temple tax. **Why was that?** How many of you are men, over the age of 19? According to God everything is your responsibility. The men were supposed to bring the temple tax **to pay for** the work of the priest and the sacrificial system **so that** the single moms, the widows, the orphans, the non-Jewish people from other nations could still come and worship God and find the true and living God. If you were a male, 19 years of age or older, it was all of your responsibility.

So here you are, you're from a foreign country and you have travelled to Jerusalem for this amazing Feast of Passover, and now it's going to cost you about **2-3 days salary**. That's your admission cost. But you could not pay the Temple tax with foreign coins. Coinage from other nations had the picture of that king and the king from that nation was worshipped as a deity. There was no way that you could pay your entrance fee, into God's temple with the image of another god. So you had to get special temple money. And they killed you with the rate of exchange and the service fee for exchanging the money. So you were actually spending 4 or 5 or 6 days wages, just to get in. Plus, you were paying for your sacrifice, plus, 27-29% of your income. Imagine that.

Imagine if I told you, 30% of your money belongs to God, I'm your pastor, so give it to me. Now, if you want to come here on Christmas that is going to cost you \$500 at the door. But, you're going to have to exchange that for Metrobucks! And then if you come in and you'd like to sing a song those are \$10/tune. And, if you'd like to hear a sermon, well that's \$15/minute and I go LONG! So you better bring your pockets full. And, if you're a single mom or your poor or you're broke or you're not a Christian, well that's a shame because these other people haven't done a very good job of paying the bills. So, as soon as they pay the bills, then we'll tell you about Jesus.

There is a way to get money out of God's people that has nothing to do with them just loving God and giving out of a cheerful heart. It can be extorted from them; it can be squeezed out of them.

As we look at **Verse 15** and see the **response of Jesus** to these things in His Father's House

- PLEASE set it against His **kind** and **gracious** response to the situation in Cana of Galilee. Jesus is not ONE DIMENSIONAL.
- PLEASE do not diminish or minimize the anger and the violence which Jesus demonstrates here.
- PLEASE note that nothing ever called from Him such a marked display of holy wrath as these things

QUOTE: Barclay — *His anger is a terrifying thing; the picture of Jesus with the whip is an awe-inspiring sight. We must see what moved Jesus to this white-hot anger in the Temple Courts.*

¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

Jesus doesn't look like Mr. Rogers here! He looks like Brave Heart, William Wallace. He has a whip in one hand and with the other hand He's flipping tables.

Don't miss thi, Israel was guilty of lazy, convenient worship, breeding a corporate worship world. But Jesus shows up and declares war on the whole thing. Jesus will not put up with it. I love that!

The religious leaders of Israel **don't care to correct** the people concerning their lazy worship. They **don't care to instruct** the people concerning worship of God. It's inconvenient for them to care that much. Plus, there's money to be made! All of the other cowardly men just walk up and are willing to roll over and get ripped off. It's convenient. Jesus is not like that at all. Jesus is willing to go through the inconvenience of declaring war.

I love that Jesus cares enough about His father's glory to actually get angry. Paul tells us in Ephesians, "*in your anger, do not sin*" ([Eph. 4:26](#)). So, you can't just run around being angry and sinning. But, there is a time and a cause when anger is justified.

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Interesting, His disciples remember some scripture here, they knew the Word of God. His disciples remember that **it was written**, "*zeal for your house will consume me.*" That is a reference from a Messianic Chapter of the Bible [Psalms 69:9](#). It is in that same Psalm ([v.21](#)) where it's predicted that Jesus will be given vinegar at His crucifixion.

Crucial question: Do you know the difference between a **consumer** and a **worshipper**?

A **consumer** is someone who believes that the entire world exists to service his needs. A **consumer** knows that he/she has a certain amount of money they are going to use, therefore, all the businesses should compete for their dollar. Here's how it works. Here's my buck. I'm a consumer. Now, I want some things. Then, what I try to find out is, where can I spend this dollar and **get the maximum return** with the **least amount of inconvenience**. Who will **do for me** the **most** and **charge me the least**? That is a consumer. As I start my search providers rise up against each other to compete for my dollar.

A **worshipper** is just the opposite. A worshipper looks at this dollar and says, where can I **give** this so that the **greatest number of other people** are **benefiting**? Where can I **give** this so that **I don't** get anything, while **someone else** gets God's love, grace, mercy, extended to them in some tangible way. A **worshipper** looks at this dollar and says, **it is not about me! It is about God and His people and those people that don't yet know God.**

A **consumer** looks at it and says, it's all about me. I'm the customer. The customer is always right. The customer is king. Whatever the customer wants.

Consumerism has crept into the fabric of the Church. The supposed worshipper has become a consumer. He or she views church and views God and views religion as the

place where they can get all of their needs met without making any sacrifices, without being inconvenienced, without having to carry any responsibility for anyone else.

The worst bit is that **Christian men don't** look at their dollar and say, "*How can I take what I have and invest that so that others are blessed and that they are loved and that they have an opportunity to worship God as well?*" They **aren't** asking, "*How can I pay the bills for them so that they can come to know God?*"

A **consumer** takes every single **dollar** and **hour** and **talent** and invests it in themselves. That is idolatry, it's self-worship. It is giving what belongs to God, to me.

Jesus radically confronts that attitude. This is why we see Jesus angry. The disciples look at Him and say – *He has zeal for his Father's house.*

This Jesus is a threat to the religious professionals that have figured out how to take advantage of lazy worshippers. If people believe what Jesus has to say about worship, then the entire consumer/commercial church world is going to come undone.

Note what follows here in Verse 18, the religious professionals challenge the authority of Jesus Christ.

18So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Anyone who drove out the merchants from the temple courts claimed the authority to do it. The Jews wanted to know if Jesus really had this authority.

In other words, "*Who the heck are you? We're religious professionals! This is the temple. Who are you? What right do you have to speak about these things and declare war on us? What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?*"

I love Jesus' answer. Jesus answered them – *destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days.*

Jesus essentially says, "*This 30 year old body is where the God of Israel now dwells on earth (REMEMBER — The Word became flesh). So, if you want to know about my authority, kill Me and I will rise from the dead.*"

That's awesome! That's incredible!

20The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,

Herod the Great had begun work on this magnificent structure 19 B.C. It had at this moment been forty-six years since it had been started; it was to be another twenty before it was ended. The work would not actually be completed not until A.D. 64

and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is huge, Jesus places Himself above everything Israel valued in that magnificent structure. Jesus shattered the Jews by telling them that all its magnificence and splendor and all the money and skill that had been lavished on it were completely irrelevant;

- **What was the temple?** It was the place where God dwelled. That is Jesus.
- **What was the temple?** It was the place where sin was atoned for. That is in Jesus.
- **What was the temple?** It was the place where people came to worship God. That is in Jesus.
- **What was the temple?** That was the place where the priest interceded for people before God. That is in Jesus, who is our great high priest and our advocate.

All of this happens in Jesus.

²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.

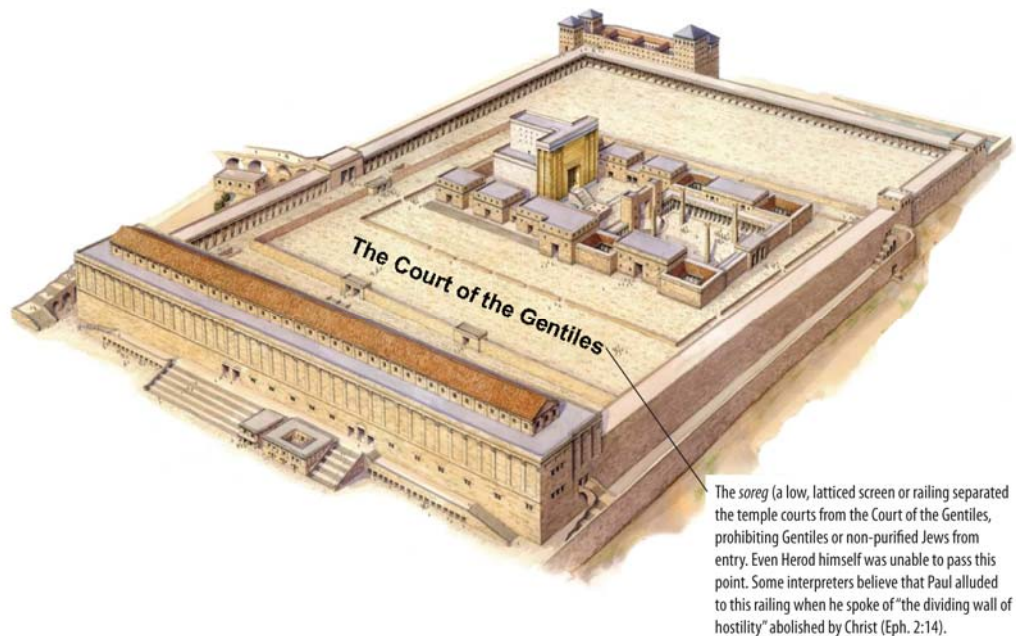
The purpose of miracles in the Bible is always to serve as a sign, to point you to God in Christ, to show you Jesus so that you will believe in Jesus.

²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Literally, Jesus did not believe in their belief.

When we consider the place where all of this took place we can begin to understand why Jesus could go from **turning** water to wine to **making** a whip and **turning** over tables.

All of this corruption was bad enough, but I believe that the location of this corruption was the most painful thing for Jesus to see. In [Mark 11:17](#) we are told that all of this transpired in the court of the Gentiles. This is very important.



When the Bible speaks of "The Temple" we often think of it in terms of a single structure. There was indeed the structure itself that contained the holy of holies where God manifested His glory above the Mercy Seat. Only the High Priest could go into the Holy of holies and he could only go in on one day of the year, Yom Kippur. Then there is the place where the priests came near the presence of God, The Holy Place. Then there was the court for the Jewish men, also called the court of Israel. Then there was the court of the women for Jewish women. Then at the farthest point from the Holy of holies there was *the court of the Gentiles*. The people that were farthest from the presence of God were in the court of the Gentiles. If you were not a Jew, the court of the Gentiles was the only place that you could go in the temple. Jewish women could be a little closer, Jewish men a little closer, priests and leaders a little closer, the high priest would go right into the presence of God once a year.

This place, *the court of the Gentiles*, was the place where non-Jewish people who were not atheists would come to hear about the God of Israel. If you were a non-Jewish person who was not an atheist and you believed that there is a God, but you weren't sure who God is or what God said or what God has done and you want to know God, **you would come to the court of Gentiles. That** was your place.

That was your place in the temple **that was supposed to be paid for by the men over the age of 19**. The men were supposed to be mature, consistent, and responsible, so that there was a place where people that don't know God could go and find God. The men of Israel were supposed to pay for that.

So Gentiles came, the Gentile court would have been filled with people who didn't know God. They were from all nations of the earth, all races, cultures, tribes, languages,

colors, backgrounds because God had promised Abraham that through his descendants all nations of the earth would be blessed.

That's where the lazy worshippers and consumers carried on their twisted symbiotic relationship with the merchants of religion! They didn't shove their warped worship into the holy of holies, into the presence of God. They didn't shove it where the religious professionals were. They didn't shove it where the men and women who knew God were. They did their deeds in the only place where people who didn't know God could come.

Thousands of people who didn't know God were coming saying, *"I am going to go to the Temple, to that place where they will permit me to meet their God. And maybe someone will talk to me. Maybe someone will answer my questions. Maybe someone will pray with me. I will go there at the holiest day of the year and I will learn who God is."*

They get there and it is a flea market! They get there and no one cares because they are all trying to get a bang for their buck, they're all lazy worshippers and consumers. They don't care about those "gentiles", they are just trying to get in and out as quickly as simply, as conveniently, as painlessly, and as economically as possible.

And there stands the "gentile." Their first impression of God is by way of His people. His people, they are not very impressive. The way they approach God is so disrespectful. They aren't interested in anyone but themselves.

Listen to me very carefully; Jesus was angry because the people thought worship was about them. Here is the most important point of this morning. Jesus Christ, Christianity, the Bible, Metro **is not about you**. It is not about you, it is about God! It's about God getting His glory. It's about God being loved, God being thanked. **It's not about you.**

Don't miss this, the consumer mentality within modern church culture is actually an extension of a consumer form of Christian living.

- Christian marriages that operate on the principle - *What is the least I can invest for the biggest return? I will do _____ because I get — respect, sex, "my time"*
- Christian friendships that operate on the principle - *What is the least I can invest for the biggest return? I will do _____ because I get*

But if true worship is pouring out all that I am, all that I do, all that I will ever become, to and for Jesus, then being a husband is **all about Jesus**. The husband lives sacrificially for his wife **for Jesus** because it **exalts Jesus** and it **pleases Jesus**.

But if you as a professing Christian live as a consumer outside of the local church, you will be a consumer in the local church.

Men especially need to hear this, you will lead your family to the local church that best accommodates your consumer way of living, rather than a place that is all about Jesus!

If you are visiting this morning, or relatively new here, you might think, “Wow this guy is mean!” I’m not being mean! It’s actually the nicest thing I’ve ever told you! The whole world is wrong. The Kingdom of God is a completely different world. It turns this world upside down. Jesus, the King of the Kingdom says, *“You know what, if you lose your life, you’ll find it. It’s not about you. It’s about God and people that don’t know God! That’s what it’s about.”*

If you’re a man over the age of 19, every time you think it’s about you, think about Jesus Christ with a whip in his hand! It is not about you. It is about God.

I started this morning by asking, *“Why did you come and what did you bring?”* Did you come for yourself and not bring a thing? There’s no tax at the door, there’s no mandatory requirement, you don’t have to pay 3 days wages to get in here. There’s no business being conducted. If you are wondering, *“what do I get for my dollar?”* The answer is nothing! You don’t get anything! Someone else gets it, someone who doesn’t know God, someone who is starving for the Word of God!

If you are thinking, *“Well, that’s not a good investment,”* it is IF you are investing in the Kingdom of God. Now, if you’re investing in yourself, that’s a bad transaction. But, it’s not about you. It’s about God!

Think about it, people were coming to the temple on the holiest day of the year, to the presence of almighty God and they think it’s about them. They forgot it was about God. And, they forgot that it was about those people that didn’t yet know God.

No doubt the lazy worshipper/the consumer was looking at Jesus thinking, *“well, what is the big deal? We bring money, we get something, that’s fair.”* **No!** *“We bring money, someone else gets something.”* **That’s grace.** That’s the Kingdom of God.

You know why? It is our **job**, our **responsibility** as **worshippers, not just consumers**, to pick up the tab for the unbeliever, for those who are spiritually impoverished. God loves them. All of our money belongs to Him. We’ll pay the bills and they can come along and enjoy the ride. And there will come a time when they look at the offering basket as it’s being passed and they will say, *“I heard the Gospel and got saved, for free! I was dying for the Word of God and they fed me the Word for free! It’s time for me to bring something!”*

I’ve heard a lot of commentators who look at the anger of Jesus and conclude that Jesus here hates religion that deals with money. No, he doesn’t. He just hates corruption. That’s what he hates.

One last thing, in the Old Testament the Temple was where the presence of God was manifested. In the Old Testament people came to know God in the courts of the temple. In the Old Testament worship was offered in the Temple. In the Old Testament sacrifices were offered in the Temple.

The New Testament says that the **believers** are the temple of God. There will be people who are figuratively in the court of the Gentiles. They aren't sure who God is! The reason they come to a church is because they assume that church is where they can find out. If you know God, shake their hand, buy them dinner, love them, extend the hand of friendship. It is not about you. Someone has done that for you. A mom, a dad, a friend, a loved one, a relative... someone has done that for you, now you do that for them!

I so desire that as people come in to our church, they would not walk away befuddled by the people they experienced in the court of the Gentiles, not walk away saying, *"Everybody knew everybody, everybody was talking to everybody, everybody was getting the most for their buck. They were all in and out, convenient, no sacrifice, no giving, it didn't really cost them anything."*

Did you know that we gave out about 650 visitors packs this year? If they all stayed, we couldn't seat them all in this room. It's beautiful. What a wonderful opportunity.

At the end of every time in the Word we make it a point to respond to what the Lord has been speaking to our hearts.

1.) Why are you here? You are here for Jesus and for people that don't know Jesus and those starving to grow in Him.

2.) What did you bring? And, what will you continue to bring? Bring your sin, that belongs to Jesus, He will forgive you. Bring your fears, those belong to Jesus, he will give you hope and strength. Bring your weakness, He will give you His life in place of your death. Bring your heart, your talents, your money, bring your prayer, bring your song, bring your friends, bring those that you know are still living in the court of the Gentiles and don't know God. What did you bring?

What a great morning for communion.

The Body of Jesus Broken. The Blood of Jesus shed. The cure for lazy worship. The cure for Consumer Christianity.