

- John Records For Us - That There Was:

1. *A Certain Purpose In Jerusalem:*

- And - In Jesus' Coming To Jerusalem!
 - It Was For The Passover!
 - "And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem!" (2:13)
 - This Would Have Been:
 - A Special Time - In The Early Spring:
 - For All Of The Jewish People:
 - Including Jesus!
 - The Passover:
 - Was The Time For Them:
 - To Remember When God Rescued Them!
 - Not Only From:
 - Their Slavery In The Land Of Egypt!
 - But Especially From:
 - The Certain Death Of Every Firstborn:
 - At The Hand Of An Angel Of God!
 - The Institution Of The Passover:
 - Is Given To Us In Exodus 12:
 - Which Shows That The Passover:
 - Was To Be:
- A Special Time Of Commemoration:
 - Of God's Mercy & Grace:
 - Upon His People! Because:
 - Of What We Find In:
 - Exodus 12:1-14! Read!
- So - In Addition To:
 - Being A Special Commemoration:
 - The Passover Also Involved:
- A Special Time Of Cleansing!
 - Not Only Of:
 - The Lambs!
 - Who Were To Be "Without Blemish!"
 - Not Only Of:
 - Their Homes!
 - In 12:15 - They Were Also Told:
 - To "Put Away Leaven Out Of Your Houses!"
 - But Especially Of:
 - Their Hearts!
 - When The Children Of Israel:
 - Kept This First Passover:
 - In 12:27 - We Are Told That "The People Bowed The Head And Worshiped!"
- So - The Passover Of The Jews:
 - Was Meant To Be:
 - A Solemn Occasion!
 - Because It Was The Difference:
 - Between Life & Death:
 - For Them!
 - Between God's Favor & Destruction!
- And - Back In John 2:13:
 - It Was To Participate In This Celebration:
 - That "Jesus Went Up To Jerusalem!"
 - After All - He Knew:
 - That The Passover Lamb:
 - Pointed To Him:
 - As The True "Lamb Of God Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!"

- Well - When He Got To Jerusalem:
- What Did He Find?

2. ***A Certain Problem In Jerusalem:***

- As We Are Told Next:
 - In 2:14 - “And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting!”
 - Now - The Problem Jesus Found:
 - Was Not So Much:
- ***What*** They Were Doing!
 - Because - In Truth:
 - Those Who “Sold Oxen And Sheep And Doves!”
 - As Well As “The Changers Of Money!”
 - Were All Doing An Important Service:
 - For Those Who Came Up, Like Jesus Did:
 - To Celebrate The Passover!
 - The Animals:
 - Were Necessary:
 - For The Sacrifices:
 - That Were To Be Made!
 - Not Just For The Passover:
 - But - For The Other Sacrifices:
 - Prescribed In The Old Testament!
 - Jews From All Over The Country:
 - Would Travel To Jerusalem:
 - For This Special Event!
 - And Lugging Some Animals With Them:
 - Might Have Been A Major Headache!
 - So - Animals Were Usually Made Available:
 - Near Jerusalem:
 - For Them To Purchase:
 - And Then Offer To The Lord!
 - The Money:
 - Was Also Necessary:
 - For The Annual Temple Tax:
 - That Was Also Required:
 - From Every Male, Age 20 And Up!
 - It Was ½ Shekel Per Man:
 - And - Because Of All Of The Different Coinage Available At That Time:
 - Another Service Was Provided:
 - To Help Jewish Pilgrims Pay The Right Amount!
 - So - The Merchants Were Providing:
 - In Important Service:
 - For Those Who Were In Jerusalem:
 - To Obey & To Worship The Lord At The Temple!
 - So - The Problem Wasn’t Primarily:
 - With ***What*** They Were Doing! But In:
 - ***Where*** They Were Doing It!
 - Traditionally - These Merchants Did Their Business:
 - Outside Of The Temple Precincts!
 - And Sometimes - Outside Jerusalem Itself!
 - But - This Time:
 - Jesus Found Them:
 - Where?
 - 12:14 - “In The Temple!”
 - Not Just *Around* The Temple!
 - But - *In* The Temple!
 - Probably In The Largest Court / Plaza - Which Was Reserved:

- For Gentiles To Come & Learn About & Worship God!
- So - In The Place That Was Meant For:
 - Consecration & Solemn Worship:
 - It Became More Like A Zoo!
 - With Thousands Of Animals For The Thousands Of Visitors!
 - Imagine All The:
 - Sights & Sounds & Smells:
 - That Would Have Gone Along With This!
 - “Instead Of Solemn Dignity And The Murmur Of Prayer, There Is The Bellowing Of Cattle And The Bleating Of Sheep. Instead Of Brokenness And Contrition, Holy Adoration And Prolonged Petition, There Is Noisy Commerce!” (Don Carson)
- But - Likely The Worst Thing About It:
 - Was That These Merchants:
 - Were Not Just In Association With:
 - The Priestly Leaders Of The Temple:
 - They Probably Had Their Approval For All Of This!
 - Because - In 2:14 - We Are Told That:
 - They Were Even “Sitting” There!
 - Not Like Other Peddlers - **IE:** Rome - Selling Their Flowers & Bracelets & Trinkets - But Always On The Move!
 - No - They Were Sitting There!
 - And That Was The Problem!
- So - What Did Jesus Do?
 - In 2:15-16a - We Find:

3. ***A Certain Purging In Jerusalem!***

- By Jesus Himself!
 - 2:15-16a - “And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables; / And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence!”
 - In These Verses:
 - We See The Holy Action Of Jesus:
 - In Righteous Anger & Indignation!
 - As One Writer Describes The Scene:
 - Jesus “Was Forceful, But Not Cruel!”
 - Nor Was He “Flying Of The Handle” Angry!
 - Instead He Purged The Temple:
 - Through His Holy Might!
 - Though There Was Certainly:
 - A Physical Element:
 - In Jesus’ Action & Might!
 - Since He Did Personally & Actively:
 - Make A Whip & Drove Them All Out Of The Temple!
 - But - There Was Probably Even More:
 - A Moral Element:
 - In Jesus’ Action & Might!
 - Because - He Was Able To Do All He Did:
 - With “A Scourge Of Small Cords!”
 - That “Whip” May Have Even Been Made Up Of:
 - Some Of The Reeds & Rushes:
 - That Were There:
 - Because Of The Animals!
 - Perhaps Those Merchants:
 - Knew - Deep Down - That:
 - They Had No Business:
 - Being In The Temple:
 - Doing Their Business!
 - But - In This Way:

- Jesus Demonstrated His Strength & Might:
 - Under Complete Control:
 - Yet, Without Sin And Without Harm!
- Because - Not Only Did He Show:
 - His Might & Authority:
 - He Also Purged The Temple:
- Through His Tender Mercy!
 - What Jesus Did - He Did:
 - In Such A Way That:
 - “None Were Really Injured, And Nothing Was Lost!” (Pink)
 - The Animals:
 - He Drove Away:
 - Could Have Been Easily Located:
 - And Gathered By Those Who Were Selling Them!
 - The Money:
 - He Poured Out:
 - Could Have Been Easily Picked Back Up:
 - By The Money-Changers!
 - The Tables:
 - He Overthrew:
 - Could Have Easily Been Put Back:
 - In The Chambers Where They Belonged!
 - But - Notice In 2:16 - He Didn't Do Anything:
 - To Those Who Were Selling The Doves!
 - Instead - He Just Told Them:
 - “Take these things hence!”
 - And - They Did!
 - I Wonder If The Dove-Sellers:
 - Were A Bit More Sensitive:
 - To What They Were Doing:
 - Than The Others?
 - After All - They Were Selling:
 - What Would Have Been Used:
 - By The Poorest Of Pilgrims:
 - Doves!
 - And So - It Seems - Jesus:
 - Called On Them To Act Upon:
 - Their Own Consciences!
 - If Their Hearts Were Tender:
 - Toward The Poorest Of God's People!
 - Perhaps Their Hearts Were Still Tender:
 - Toward God Himself!
 - And So - They Heard What Jesus Said!
 - They Likely Felt What Jesus Wanted Them To Feel!
 - And They Obeyed & Complied!
 - To The Awe Of Everyone Around!
 - And - In This Way:
 - The Temple Was Cleansed:
 - By Jesus! Through:
 - His Holy Might & His Tender Mercy!
 - But - Why Did Jesus:
 - Do What He Did? Because Of:

4. *A Certain Passion For Jerusalem!*

- Which We Find Recorded For Us:
 - In 2:16b-17 - When Jesus Said:
 - “Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. / And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up!”

- Jesus Did What He Did:
 - Because He Had A Passion:
 - That Was Based On:
- His Relationship With His True Father!
 - He Told The Merchants:
 - “Make Not My Father’s House An House Of Merchandise!”
 - He Told Them To Leave:
 - And - To Not Come Back!
 - Because - The House They Were In:
 - Was “His Father’s House!”
 - In A Special Sense:
 - That They Could Not Fully Understand At That Time!
 - Even Though God’s Presence:
 - Cannot Be Contained:
 - In Any Physical Building:
 - Jesus Did Recognize The Temple In Jerusalem:
 - As A Genuine Place Of God’s Special Presence With His People!
 - But - Sadly - Many Who Claimed To Be His People:
 - Didn’t Really Believe In His Presence!
 - And - How They Treated:
 - His House - Was Just A Reflection Of:
 - What They Thought Of God!
 - And - They Made It Into:
 - A “House Of Merchandise!”
 - An - Emporium!
 - A Super-Market! A Bazaar!
 - And So - In An Authority Not Recognized Yet:
 - By The People - Jesus Commands:
 - “Make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise!”
 - And - Jesus’ Command Then:
 - Is Still In Force Today!
 - But - His “Father’s House” Is No Longer In A Place, But In A People!
 - And So - As “The Temple Of God!”
 - The Church - Christians:
 - Are Not To Be Living:
 - Out Of Selfishness, But For Service!
 - Not To “Get” What We Can From God:
 - But To “Give!”
 - Because - As His “Father’s House!”
 - Our Lives - Our Worship - Our Fellowship:
 - Is Not To Be About:
 - Us, But The Lord & About Others!
 - But - All Too Often:
 - We Come Together As God’s People / House:
 - With A Consumer’s Mentality!
 - How Can I Be Satisfied?
 - Versus - How Can I Serve!
 - Or - We May Not Come Together:
 - With God’s People At All!
 - And - That’s A Problem!
 - Are We Still Tender In Our Hearts & Consciences:
 - To Hear These Words Of Jesus?
 - “Make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise!”
 - Not Talking About This Building!
 - But Talking About Your Heart!
 - In John 4:23-24 - “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. / God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth!”

- Jesus Did What He Did:
 - Because He Had A Passion:
 - Based On:
 - His Relationship With His True Father!
 - But It Was Also Based On:
- His Redemption Of His True House!
 - Because - As His Disciples:
 - Watched What Was Going On:
 - God Brought Scripture:
 - To Their Mind!
 - They Looked At Jesus:
 - And Thought About The Words Of King David:
 - From Psalm 69:9:
 - 2:17 - “And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up!”
 - At That Time - They Were Eyewitnesses:
 - Of Jesus’ Holy Zeal & Passion:
 - For His Father’s Glory - And:
 - For His Father’s House!
 - But - In Just A Few Short Years:
 - They Would Be Eyewitnesses:
 - Of His Zeal:
 - Eating Him Up!
 - Consuming Him!
 - Even To The Point Of Death!
- It Wasn’t So Much:
 - The Place Of God:
 - That Mattered To Jesus!
 - It Was The People Of God!
 - If You Believe In Christ:
 - Paul Asks - In 1 Corinthians 3:16:
 - “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
- The House Of God:
 - Is Still Jesus’ Passion!
 - You Are Still:
 - What Jesus Is Zealous For!
 - He Did What He Did:
 - First & Foremost:
 - For The Glory Of God!
 - But Then - He Also Did What He Did:
 - For The Good Of His People!
 - He Came For You!
 - He Lived For You!
 - He Did This For You!
 - He Died For You! “Eaten Up!”
 - He Rose For You!
 - He’s Coming Back For You!
 - Jesus Was Consumed With His Zeal:
 - For The House Of God:
 - So That He Might Be Both Just:
 - And The Justifier:
 - “Of Him Which Believeth In Jesus!” (Romans 3:26)

Conclusion:

1. And - Since This Was Jesus’ Passion:
 - It Ought To Be Our Passion Too!
 - Is There A “Zeal” In Your Heart:

- For The House Of God?
 - Not A Place - But A People?
 - The House Of God:
 - The Church:
 - Is Meant For:
 - Worship & Service & Witness:
 - That Is True & Pure!
 - And - It Starts With You & With Your Own Heart!
2. And - We Need To Remember:
 - The Purpose:
 - For Christ's Coming:
 - Not Just To Jerusalem:
 - But To The World!
 - He Came - Titus 2:14:
 - "That he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!"
3. Is There This Kind Of:
 - Holy Zeal In Your Heart Today?
 - Like That Of Jesus?
 - To Fellowship & To Worship & To Serve & To Witness:
 - In A Way That:
 - Brings Glory To The Lord?
 - Need To Search Your Own Heart!
 - Because - Sadly - What Happened:
 - At The Temple In Those Days:
 - Can Easily Happen In Our Hearts!
 - Because - Later In Jesus' Ministry:
 - We Have Another Record:
 - Of Jesus Cleansing The Temple:
 - In The Last Week Of His Public Ministry!
 - In Mark 11:15-17:
 - "And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; / And would not suffer that any man should carry [any] vessel through the temple. / And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves!"
 - When Jesus Cleansed The Temple:
 - The First Time - Here In John:
 - At The Beginning Of His Ministry!
 - We're Not Told That The Merchants:
 - Were Crooks! Probably Because:
 - They Still Had Some Level Of Conscience In Providing A Service To God's People!
 - But - This Time - In Mark:
 - Toward The End Of His Ministry:
 - Jesus Says - "Ye Have Made It A Den Of Thieves!"
 - So - Some Of Those Same Merchants:
 - After Being "Swept Out" By Jesus - Went Back!
 - And Did Things Even Worse Than Before!
 - They Did Not Listen To Jesus:
 - Because - "The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entered in, choked the word, and it became unfruitful!" (Mark 4:19)
 - 4. Won't You Listen To & Learn From:
 - The Zeal Of Jesus?
 - Won't You Seek To Possess:
 - The Same Kind Of Zeal?
 - By God's Grace & Through His Strength!
 - A Zeal & A Passion For:

- The Word Of Christ! (“Dwell In You Richly!”)
- The Holiness Of Christ! (“Be Ye Holy!”)
- The Fellowship Of Christ! (Worship_
- The People Of Christ! (Serve)
- And - May It Be A Zeal:
- From Your Heart!

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