

# Misunderstood Messiah: The Gospel of John

Misunderstood Temple

JOHN 2:13-22

## CORE TRUTH

Week of February 15, 2026

**Jesus confronts false worship to show that God's presence is found not in a place or system, but in him.**

**WELCOME** to remind us why we're here.

⌚ Spend about 5 minutes here.

**Mission** – To become more like Jesus – together.

**Vision** – We work out our salvation side-by-side—with honesty, humility, and hope. We walk with one another, not just to talk about Jesus, but to be transformed by him. (Philippians 2:12-13)

**Guidelines** – Our Group Guidelines help us live out our mission and vision with kindness and humility. We encourage you to read and discuss the guidelines together regularly—they can be found on the last page.

**HEAD** to help us examine what the word shows and let in what's true.

⌚ Spend about 10 minutes here.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Imagine witnessing this moment in the temple—what would have been most shocking to you about Jesus' actions?

**HEART** to help us wrestle with what we believe and be with each other in it.

⌚ Spend about 30 minutes here.

- Where do you notice a tendency in yourself to approach God in a transactional way?
- Jesus' actions in the temple show that he has authority over religion itself, not just personal morality. Where do you find it difficult to let Jesus have that kind of authority in your life?
- When do you most feel you are encountering the real God rather than practicing religion?

**HANDS** to help us live out the truth with the Spirit as we go out into the world.

⌚ Spend about 15 minutes here.

- **Meditate on the following reflection now and throughout the week:** Jesus, where might you be gently overturning something in my life so that I can meet you more fully?
- **Use the following prayer based on Psalms 51 to close your time together:**

Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Restore to us the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

## LEADER RESOURCES

• [Weekly Leader Video](#) • [Bible Project John Part 1](#) • [Why The Gospel of John Is Special](#) • [Tim Keller Podcasts on John](#) •

## NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE

John 3:1-15

GROUPS



## Misunderstood Temple

JOHN 2:13-22

## SETTING THE SCENE

When Jesus enters the temple, he acts with clear authority. What unfolds is not uncontrolled anger, but a revealing moment that shows who he is and why he came. Jesus confronts a religious system that had lost its way. What was meant to lead people into God's presence had become something controlled and transactional. By overturning the tables, Jesus reveals part of his mission: to purify worship and redirect people to true worship—an encounter with God himself. In doing so, Jesus makes a bold claim: the true temple—the place where heaven and earth meet—is no longer a building but a person. By confronting what hinders genuine relationship with God, Jesus reveals a God who desires to dwell with his people.

## SCRIPTURE

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And 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. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When 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.

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## DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open, and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We want to value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after one person shares and before the next person shares gives the person sharing a chance to finish. A pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, to gather their thoughts in order to share, and to genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

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reimbursement.

