

# REFLECTION *Questions*

JOHN 2:13-22

- What stirred Jesus to such strong action in the temple courts? What does his reaction (driving out sellers, overturning tables, making a whip of cords) reveal about his priorities for worship and God's house? How does this differ from a merely "peaceful" image of Jesus?
- Jesus quotes or alludes to the idea that his Father's house should not be a "marketplace" (v. 16). In what ways might religious practices, church activities, or personal faith today become more about convenience, profit, business, or self-interest than genuine worship and encounter with God?
- The disciples recalled the Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me" (Psalm 69:9, referenced in v. 17). What does "zeal" look like in Jesus here? Where in your own life do you see (or lack) a similar passionate commitment to God's honor and purposes? How might God be inviting you to cultivate that zeal?
- When challenged, Jesus responds cryptically: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (v. 19). The Jewish leaders misunderstood him literally, but John explains he meant the temple of his body (vv. 21-22). How does this shift the focus from a physical building to Jesus himself as the true place of God's presence? What does this mean for how we think about "God's house" or worship today?
- The disciples only fully understood Jesus' words after his resurrection (v. 22). Think about a time when you didn't fully grasp something God was doing or saying in your life until later (perhaps through hindsight, Scripture, or circumstances). How does this encourage trust in God's timing and revelation?
- In what ways have you (or does the church) sometimes treat faith or religious spaces more like a marketplace—focused on transactions, comfort, or external rituals—rather than a place of pure devotion to God? What "tables" might Jesus want to overturn in your heart, habits, or community?
- How does this passage challenge our understanding of Jesus' authority? He claims authority over the temple (and by extension, over worship and our lives). Where do you struggle to submit to his authority, and why? How can recognizing him as the true temple deepen your trust in him?
- Jesus' actions point forward to his death and resurrection as the ultimate cleansing and new way to God. How does the resurrection reframe what true worship looks like— "in spirit and truth" rather than tied to a physical location or system?

# *Focused* WORSHIP

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**Jesus is concerned with how we worship!**

Jesus challenges an incorrect worship focus.

Jesus establishes a correct worship focus.