

5. It appears that Jesus cleared the temple on two separate occasions; the first is found here in **John 2:15**. The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) describe Jesus clearing the temple a second time during passion week; the week of His crucifixion. What can we learn about the motive of Jesus from His words in **Luke 19:45-48**?

6. The temple was the place to worship God, not conduct a business operation (**vv. 15-16**). What are some ways that modern churches have become more business oriented than ministry focused? A.W. Tozer wrote, *"If God took His Holy Spirit out of this world, what the church is doing would go right on and nobody would know the difference."* What did Tozer mean? What are the signs of a true church today? When is a church *"Spirit led?"*

7. Warren Wiersbe writes, *"We've been living on substitutes for so long that if revival of worship ever did come, many of God's people would probably see it as a threat to the gospel!"* Do many people find the gospel offensive? If so, why? According to **Rom. 1:16**, why should every Christian be willing to share the full truth of the gospel message with their unbelieving family and friends? (See **Rom. 3:23; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16**)

8. What happens when the Word of God is not preached in our churches on a regular basis? What are some ways that you've seen the church in America changing? What will happen to the church in America if we don't change course soon?

9. What command did Jesus give to those who sold doves in the temple court (**vs. 16**)? Jesus said His Father's house was to be a house of prayer and not a business operation. How does **Mal. 3:1-2b** describe the coming of Jesus to the temple? What is the main difference between the two advents of Jesus Christ? Is **John 2:15-16** a partial fulfillment of the **Mal. 3:1-2b** prophecy? If so, how? When will it ultimately be fulfilled?

10. The disciples knew the Scriptures well enough to realize that they were witnessing Jesus fulfill the words of David as prophesied in **Psa. 69:9**. What did David say? William MacDonald wrote, *"We should remember that the Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Lord Jesus was anxious that the temple in Jerusalem be kept pure, so we must be careful that our bodies be turned over to the Lord for continual cleansing."* How do we cleanse our bodies today? What are some ways that you've changed since coming to the Lord?

Part II: The Jews demand a sign from Jesus to demonstrate His authority (John 2:18-22)

1. Shocked by the actions of Jesus, the Jewish religious leaders demand *"a sign"* to prove His authority for cleansing the court of the Gentiles (**vs. 18**). Jesus had already performed at least one miracle, the changing of water into wine; He apparently performed even more miracles while in Jerusalem on this trip. What is the only sign that Jesus would later promise the Jewish religious leaders? (See **Matt. 12:39-40**) What was this a picture of?
2. Jesus immediately refers to this picture in **verse 19**. What did Jesus say to the Jewish religious leaders? The physical temple was a type of Christ's body; what is a biblical type? What did Jesus mean in **verse 19**? Note: When the body of Jesus was crucified, the typical purpose of the temple in Jerusalem was no longer needed. What happened in A.D. 70?
3. The Jewish religious leaders were offended and twisted the meaning of Jesus' words to say something that he did not. Satan still operates that way today. How was this lie used at the trial of Jesus? (See **Matt. 26:59-61**) How was it used by those who mocked Jesus during His crucifixion? (See **Matt. 27:39-40**) How was it used against Stephen? (See **Acts 6:13-14**)
4. In what way did people misunderstand the words of Jesus in **verse 19 (vs. 20)**? What year did this event likely take place in history? For how long was the temple in Jerusalem under construction? How long had the temple been completed when it was destroyed in A.D. 70?

5. John clarifies in **verse 21** what Jesus was speaking about in **verse 19**. What was Jesus telling His people? (See **Col. 2:9**) What is the meaning of the word, “*parable?*” What can we learn from **Matt. 13:10-11** about the motive behind Jesus’ use of parables?

6. When did the disciples of Jesus finally realize what He was talking about in **verse 19 (vs. 22)**? What was their response? Note: The temple cleansing, like the changing water into wine, pointed to the fact that the old way, or the Old Covenant, was giving way to the new way of the New Covenant.” Why is the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant?

Part III: Many people believed in the miracles, but not in Jesus (John 2:23-25)

1. How did many of the people in Jerusalem respond to the signs Jesus performed (**vs. 23**)? Do you think the faith of these individuals was genuine or were they simply impressed by the miracles? Note: It is not how spectacular a church is, or its pastor is, what really matters is Jesus and our relationship with Him; there is nothing more important. When did you receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? What are some ways that your life has changed since coming to Christ?

2. What is the difference theologically between the visible and invisible church? Why is it critically important for you to be part of the “*invisible church?*”

3. Why did Jesus not “*commit*” Himself to the people in Jerusalem (**vv. 24-25**)? What can we learn about the human heart from **Jer. 17:9-10**? Apparently, many of those impressed with Jesus were following Him for the wrong reasons. Why do you follow Jesus? What is the right reason for following Christ? (See **John 14:6**)

4. Believing in Jesus requires more than being impressed with His miracles, it requires new birth. Jesus will explain the importance of this to Nicodemus in **John 3:1-2**. What can we learn about the kind of commitment expected from a true believer in **Matt. 16:24-26**?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The court of the Gentiles was the only place in the temple complex set aside for the Gentiles to worship God.
- For the sake of convenience and profit, the court of the Gentiles had been turned into a marketplace; the Gentiles, many who had traveled miles, had no place to worship.
- The religious leaders and money changers exploited the worshipers by charging them exorbitant fees to exchange their foreign currency and to purchase animals for sacrifice.
- Jesus saw the abuse and was furious; He overturned the moneychanger tables and made a whip that He used to drive them out of the temple complex.
- Angry at what Jesus had done, the Jewish religious leaders demanded a sign (or miracle) from Jesus to prove He had the authority to drive them from the court of the Gentiles.
- Jesus told them, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" (See **John 2:19**)
- The Jews thought Jesus was talking about the earthly temple; instead, Jesus spoke of His body and prophesied the resurrection that would take place three days after His crucifixion.