

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

# Sermon Study

December 31, 2016

Three Resolutions: Jesus Clears the Temple

John 2:13-22

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.



*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

**Gather** (your group getting to know each other)

Has a friend or family member ever “made a scene” in public that really embarrassed you? Share that story.

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

We should always be looking for ways to share the gospel with our non-believing friends, and this time of year, the topic of New Year's Resolutions might be an open door for those discussions. Consider mentioning something Christ-related if you find yourself in a resolution conversation this week.

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

### Key Scripture

"Do not make my Father's house a house of trade." (John 2:16, ESV)

### Key Word Study

Interestingly, although the word "temple" is found several times in this passage, two different Greek words are used for it. In v.14, it's the word *hieron*, which means the whole temple enclosure, the entire aggregate buildings, balconies, courts, etc. But in v.19, it's the word *naos*, which is a more intimate word used of the sanctuary itself, the Holy of Holies.

### Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read John 2:13-22.
2. Many Christians have heard it said that Jesus is both "lion and lamb," and in gospels which seem to have an abundance of "lamb" passages, this story from John 2 is often cited as showing us the lion side of Jesus. If you're new to this story (or haven't studied it in awhile), how does it impact your perception of Jesus? Does the fact that he overturned tables and whipped people out of the temple expand your understanding of him?
3. Unfortunately, throughout the history of the church, this passage has been misused by Christians to justify all sorts of aggressive, quarrelsome behavior in the name of "righteous anger." So to make sure we don't interpret Jesus' actions too broadly, it's crucial to understand *why* he was angry. So discuss that in your group...specifically *why* was Jesus angry here? What was happening, and why was it unacceptable?
4. Consider how Jesus could have reacted to the abuse and misuse of the temple. He could have completely ignored it. He could have noticed it but then done nothing about it. He could have minimized it and said "Eh, it's not that big of a deal." He could even have tried to negotiate a compromise and say, "If you tithe your profits, you can keep doing business here." But instead, he just actively, aggressively, and immediately cleans house. Why do you think he chose this reaction instead of any of those other possible reactions? What does this tell us about what Jesus values?

5. We can't study this passage without reading these other verses: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; and Ephesians 2:19-22. Read those aloud in your group and talk about how they relate to this passage from John 2.

6. So here's the convicting truth: you're the temple now. How would Jesus act if he visited you?

7. The deeper lesson from this story (in verses 13-17 anyway) is about taking the temple and misusing it for our own purposes. So as we enter a new year, what do you need to drive out of yourself?

8. The second part of this story (v.18-22) shows us a conversation between Jesus and the Jewish leaders who witnessed this temple clearing. To better understand their response in v.18 (when they say, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"), take a minute to read Malachi 3:1-4 aloud in your group. This is a prophecy that speaks of the coming Messiah. So when Jesus storms into the temple and clears it like this, that would have caught their attention, and they may have thought to themselves, "Who does this man think he is that he can come marching into the temple like he owns the place? Only the promised Messiah can do that. Does this man think he's the Messiah?" So their question in v.18 is basically their way of saying, "Ok, prove to us you're the Messiah." What answer does Jesus give them? And what does it mean? What's he really talking about?

9. The resurrection truly is the greatest "sign" that Jesus gives us. As you wrap-up your group tonight, talk about how the truth of the resurrection should compel us to be zealous for the "temple" in the same way Jesus was.

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

Hopefully this discussion convicted you this week. It's one thing to read about Jesus driving inappropriate activities out of the temple; it's another thing to realize that you're the temple. And the same zeal Jesus had toward the money changers is the same zeal he has toward your sin. Consider using the new year to start serving your group members by encouraging honesty, transparency, and accountability about what you need to clean out of your life. Remember, you don't have to do this alone.