

Connection Group Questions

For the week of October 27, 2024

This Week's Message: *Jesus Calls Disciples to a Right Worship of God*

Passages: John 2:13-25

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. What household chores do you dread doing the most both inside and outside your home?

Into-The-Bible Question

2. **As a group, read John 2:13-25. Holiness is missing and Jesus cleanses the temple.**
 - Are there any aspects in this story that stand out to you?
3. **In verses 13-17, Jesus is zealous for our right worship of God.**
 - The temple was a sacred place, so what might be some key motives the merchants and money changers had to want to hold commercial activity there?
 - How was this damaging to ministering to the Gentiles in the courtyard?
 - What is the proper context behind the radical actions of Jesus?
 - What exactly is "righteous anger?" What are some good examples?
 - In all the chaos, how could Jesus, one man, single-handedly evict all the vendors without being arrested or mobbed? How does this speak to Christ's presence, power and authority?
 - Discuss how Jesus would have been an inadequate Savior or an incompetent Lord if He had failed to act and express His anger against this corruption.
4. **What is the difference between God's anger and man's anger?**
 - Read Psalm 119:126; Ephesians 4:26-27; James 1:19-20; Romans 1:18; John 3:36.
 - Jesus' actions were aggressive but controlled. Why is it wrong for us today to use this as justification for violence against others for "righteous purposes?"
5. **In verse 17, Jesus refers to Psalms 69:8-9, "... because zeal for your house has consumed Me."**
 - In what ways does this explain what Jesus cares the most about?
 - Consider what the disciples might have been thinking as they watched this chaotic event unfold and remembered these words that were written.
6. **In verses 18-22, Jesus has the authority to correct our worship of God.**
 - Everyone who worships God thinks they're "getting it right," so how can we be sure we are worshipping in a manner that God has prescribed and pleasing to Him? Read Proverbs 21:2
 - What makes our worship acceptable to God when His standards are so high and we as believers, are so flawed?
 - How does Jesus destroying the temple and raising it up in three days ultimate proof of His authority?
7. **In verses 23-25, Jesus knows what our hearts truly worship instead of God.**
 - Does this frighten you or humble you and give you peace?
 - How do we recognize the characteristics of a genuine believer in Christ?
 - Do these characteristics mark your own life?

Application For This Week

As followers of Christ, Jesus calls us to glorify and honor God with our actions and choices with a zealous heart that worships in align with the Father. John 4:23-24 tells us, *“But an hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”* This week, let our hearts capture the wonder of Him with joyous awe and be moved to humility, being reminded that God sees our actions and knows the intentions of our hearts. Our worship doesn’t require any animal sacrifice, but He does command and desire for our lives to be an ongoing act as *“a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; for this is your worship.”* Romans 12:1

How Your Group Can Pray This Week

This week, pray our worship will always come from a humble heart and a genuine faith that is reserved only for God. Jesus calls us to a right worship of God and that worship should reflect the one who created us. Worship isn’t just some emotionally charged song, nor spiritual head knowledge; it is an act of faith with obedience that is pleasing to our Father. Pray that we implement a regular “spiritual cleansing” in our own hearts and minds so that we may remain a holy abode for God’s Spirit.