



INTRODUCTION

Who is this Jesus we worship, and seek to follow ?

When as children we may have prayed this prayer:

“GENTLE Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child,
Pity my simplicity, Suffer me to come to thee.”

This is certainly an inviting picture of the gentleness and humility of our Lord and Saviour...

But it's equally certain, that this is not a complete picture of the complex Identity of Jesus...

The passage this week shows another side to the Messiah, and it raises many questions of faith...

1. THE COURAGEOUS SAVIOUR

“The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.” John 2:13 NASB

KEYPOINT

We will never fully understand just how much Courage Jesus required each day to live the life he lived and do the things He did. And this particular day, was to be one of the hardest.

Discuss why going to Jerusalem at any point was traumatic for Jesus especially at Passover?

Discuss also why Jesus also grieved especially over the Temple, because it was Meant to be His Father's House, and even from a young age He loves the Temple, and Who it represents.

2. THE FEROCIOUS MESSIAH

Now Read and discuss John 2:14-25 NASB

KEYPOINT

Jesus cannot allow the utter compromise of His Father's House to be left unchallenged.

What does this account teach us about Him:

- A. He is a Peacemaker, not a Peacekeeper...
- B. He confronts the Culture of Commercialism
- C. He challenges the Toxicity of Religious Hypocrisy
- D. He calls people to Prayer instead of Profit

DISCUSSION POINT

It's important to recognise, that this is not mere human anger. Why does He have this reaction ? In another account, Jesus reminds everyone : "..., "It is written, ' MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER ' ; but you are making it a ROBBERS 'DEN.'" Matthew 21:13 NASB

3. THE PASSIONATE PROPHET

"His disciples remembered that it was written, " ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

KEYPOINT

Nothing changes without Passion. And if Jesus came for any reason it was to bring lasting and deep change ... John will explain in his later Epistle that Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one. (1 John 3:8). Discuss what this means in our 21st century lives?
He truly acts at this moment, like one of the Prophets of old... fearlessly!

4. THE SUFFERING SERVANT

In John 2:18-25 , Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection. Compare this to the graphic prophecy about Jesus found in Isaiah 53. What sense of Freedom and Hope does this bring?

CONCLUSION

Every sign that Jesus does brings people to Faith. Even in the chaos of this conflict and grief, Jesus is able to prophesy His own death and Resurrection, which will ultimately free us from the weight of religious obligations and empty rituals, into a living relationship with God as Father.

Jesus loves His Father, and the House of God, and the people around Him with a ferocious love.