

SERMON NOTES

Reason To Believe: Empty Religion
John 2:13-25

The typical picture we have of Jesus is one of gentleness, compassion, and kindness. Often when we think of Jesus, we think of Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Yet, the first public display of Jesus in Jerusalem after inaugurating His ministry is one of righteous indignation and wrath. Why would He act this way? Clearly, Jesus knew the false and irreverent hearts of those who gathered to celebrate the Passover. He demanded that worship be true and genuine.

Key thought: Jesus knows your heart and wants you to truly and genuinely worship Him.

In this passage we see...

God wants a relationship with you, not empty religious practices (13-14)

Isaiah 1:11; Amos 5:21-23

- Motion, but no meaning
- Irreverence toward the holy
- Treated the sacred like the secular

Righteousness and wrath display His deity and authority (15-17)

Matthew 21:12-13 (verse 17) – reference to the Messianic Psalm 69:9

The resurrection vindicates and verifies the deity and authority of Jesus (18-22)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Jesus knows your heart and wants you to truly and genuinely worship Him (23-25)

(verse 24) “He knew all men”