

▼ **Cleansing The Temple**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 10, 2026

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<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are finishing John 2.
- We will have Life Group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer
- **Cultural Rivers**

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

- ▼ Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:36-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - John 2:3-25
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.

- Transition to Life Group.

▼ Opening Material

▶ Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”

▼ Welcome to John!

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: John 1-12](#) - (00:08:46)

- John 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- John 21:25

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

▼ Embrace Jesus’ Mission

▼ **Jesus' mission, (expressed in the synoptic gospels) still applies.**

- Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near!”
- Mark 1:14-15 – “The Kingdom of God has come near . . .”
- Luke 4:14-21 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . .”

▼ **Feed on the Life of Jesus**

- **Are you “worded up”?**
- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**

▼ **What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?**

- The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 – 5/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 – 6/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 – 7/24)
- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)

▼ **For May this means:**

- Read Matthew 9 on May 9 (yesterday).
- Read Matthew 10 on May 10 (today).
- Read Matthew 11 on May 11 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**

▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ Video:

- [Discipleship.ORG: Key Disciple Making Definitions for Church Leaders](#) - YouTube (00:05:26)
- [The Chosen: Season 5 Temple Cleansing](#) - YouTube (00:07:18)

▼ John 2:13-25

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, **“Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!”** His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

Jesus answered them, **“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”**

They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

▼ Parallel Passages

- Matthew 21:12-15

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. **“It is written,”** he said to them, **“‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”**

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

- Mark 11:15-18

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, **“Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all**

nations' ? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.' ”

The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

- **Luke 19:45-48**

When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. **“It is written,”** he said to them, **“ ‘My house will be a house of prayer’ ; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ ”**

Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

- **Zechariah 14:20-21**

On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD’S house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD Almighty.

- **Psalm 69:7-12**

For I endure scorn for your sake,
and shame covers my face.

I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother’s children;

**for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.**

When I weep and fast,
I must endure scorn;
when I put on sackcloth,
people make sport of me.

Those who sit at the gate mock me,
and I am the song of the drunkards.

- **Isaiah 56**

This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

Blessed is the one who does this—
the person who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,
and keeps their hands from doing any evil.”

Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”

And let no eunuch complain,
“I am only a dry tree.”

For this is what the LORD says:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose what pleases me
and hold fast to my covenant —
to them I will give within my temple and its walls

a memorial and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that will endure forever.
And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
**for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations. ”**
The Sovereign LORD declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

- **Jeremiah 7:1-15**

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

“Stand at the gate of the LORD’S house and there proclaim this message:

“ ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!” If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

“ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? **Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.**

“ ‘Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors. I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.’

▼ **Narrative**

- As Passover approached, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- Jesus finds the temple courts occupied with people selling animals for sacrifice and exchanging currency.

- He makes a whip, drives out the animals, and overturns the tables.
- His disciples remember “Zeal for your house will consume me” - Psalm 69:9.
- The Jews ask for a sign to prove Jesus’ authority to do this.
- Jesus claims that he will raise up the temple in three days if it is destroyed. They think he is referring to the building, but he is actually referring to his body.
- After Jesus’ resurrection, his disciples remembered these words and believed the scripture.
- At Passover, many people respond to Jesus’ signs by believing in his name, but Jesus won’t entrust himself to them because he knew what was in each person.

▼ Observations

- ▼ John records this cleansing of the temple at the beginning of Jesus’ career. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record a cleansing of the temple during the final week before Jesus’ crucifixion. The accounts have some significant differences:
 - ▼ In John:
 - The cleansing takes place at the beginning of Jesus’ career.
 - Jesus makes a whip of cords. The whip is not mentioned in the synoptic gospel accounts (i.e. Matthew, Mark, and Luke).
 - Jesus makes the remark about destroying the temple (his body) and raising it up in 3 days. This does not occur in the synoptic gospel accounts of the temple cleansing, but Matthew and Mark mention it during Jesus’ trial.
 - There is no indication that the Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Jesus.
 - ▼ In Matthew, Mark, and Luke:
 - The cleansing takes place during the week before Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - No mention of a whip of cords.
 - Jesus says: “My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers”. - Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11
 - The authorities are indignant and seek to kill Jesus.
- ▼ Why was the activity in the temple courts a big deal?
 - The temple courts were the only part of the temple open to gentiles (i.e. Non-Jews).
 - Animals for sacrifice needed to be free of blemish or defect. This was why people paid for approved animals at the temple rather than bringing their own from far away.
 - Money for offerings needed to be in acceptable currency. This is why money changers were needed.

- The problem was that these legitimate activities were crowding out the only worship space available to gentiles.
- In Psalm 69:7-12 the psalmist describes himself as someone enduring persecution because of his zeal (jealousy) for God's Kingdom.
- Jesus' claim that he will raise up the temple in 3 days, will be cited during his' trial.
- The final paragraph pointing out that Jesus wouldn't entrust himself even to those who believed in him is an introduction to the account of Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus in John 3.

▼ **Video**

- [Bible Project: Heaven & Earth](#) - YouTube (00:06:43)

▼ **Lessons**

- ▼ Last month we learned that Jesus has a team of disciples - People who are:
 - Following Jesus
 - Being changed by Jesus
 - Committed to the mission of Jesus
- Are you following Jesus or trying to get Jesus to follow you?
- Are you being changed by Jesus or trying to change Jesus to conform to you?
- Are you committed to Jesus' mission or trying to get Jesus to commit to your agenda?
- Are you following Jesus together with a team that shares these commitments?
- When Jesus cleansed the Temple, it demonstrated how zeal for God's house consumed him. in what ways does zeal for God's house consume you and your team members?

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

• **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**

- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

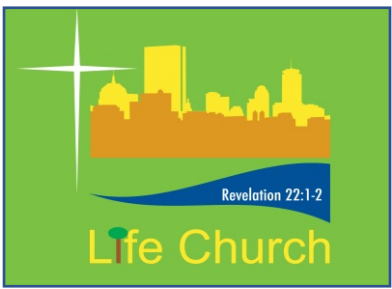
▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**

▼ What level are you at with these?

- Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**



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 - the apostles' teaching
 - fellowship
 - the breaking of bread
 - Prayer
- Cultural Rivers



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 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage – John 2:13-25
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
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John's Purpose

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Embrace Jesus' Mission:

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)



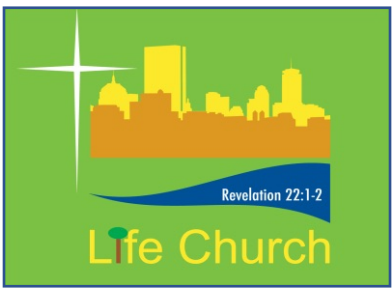
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Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

For May this means:

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



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With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

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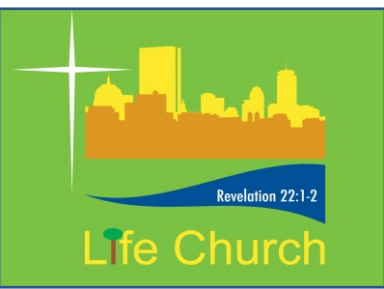


Key Disciple Making Definitions





The Chosen: Cleansing The Temple





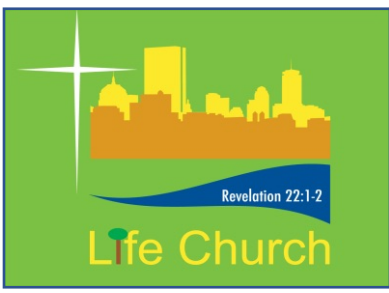
John 2:13-25 (NIV) 1 of 2



When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, **“Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”** His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

Jesus answered them, **“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”**



John 2:13-25 (NIV) 2 of 2



They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

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Matthew 21:12-15 (NIV)



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Mark 11:15-18 (NIV)

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Luke 19:45-48 (NIV)



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Zechariah 14:20-21 (NIV)



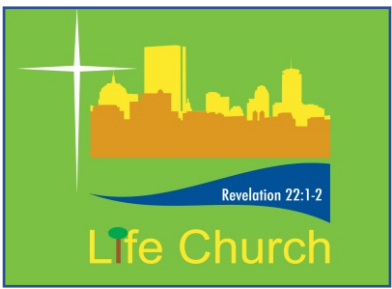
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Psalm 69:7-12 (NIV)



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and shame covers my face.
I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;
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Isaiah 56:1-7 (NIV) 1 of 4



This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice

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Blessed is the one who does this—

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Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,

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And let no eunuch complain,

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Isaiah 56:1-7 (NIV) 2 of 4



For this is what the LORD says:

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I will give them an everlasting name
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Isaiah 56:1-7 (NIV) 3 of 4



And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.



Isaiah 56:1-7 (NIV) 4 of 4



Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
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Jeremiah 7:1-15 (NIV) 1 of 3



This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

“Stand at the gate of the LORD’S house and there proclaim this message:

“ ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!” If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.



Jeremiah 7:1-15 (NIV) 2 of 3



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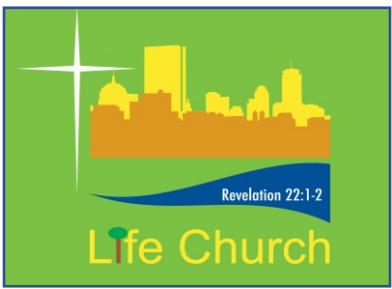


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Narrative

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- He makes a whip, drives out the animals, and overturns the tables.
- His disciples remember “Zeal for your house will consume me” - Psalm 69:9.
- The Jews ask for a sign to prove Jesus’ authority to do this.
- Jesus claims that he will raise up the temple in three days if it is destroyed. They think he is referring to the building, but he is actually referring to his body.
- After Jesus’ resurrection, his disciples remembered these words and believed the scripture.
- At Passover, many people respond to Jesus’ signs by believing in his name, but Jesus won’t entrust himself to them because he knew what was in each person.



Observations

- John records this cleansing of the temple at the beginning of Jesus' career. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record a cleansing of the temple during the final week before Jesus' crucifixion. The accounts have some significant differences:
 - In John:
 - The cleansing takes place at the beginning of Jesus' career.
 - Jesus makes a whip of cords. The whip is not mentioned in the synoptic gospel accounts (i.e. Matthew, Mark, and Luke).
 - Jesus makes the remark about destroying the temple (his body) and raising it up in 3 days. This does not occur in the synoptic gospel accounts of the temple cleansing, but Matthew and Mark mention it during Jesus' trial.
 - There is no indication that the Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Jesus.



Observations (continued)

- John records this cleansing of the temple at the beginning of Jesus' career. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record a cleansing of the temple during the final week before Jesus' crucifixion. The accounts have some significant differences:
 - In Matthew, Mark, and Luke:
 - The cleansing takes place during the week before Jesus' crucifixion.
 - No mention of a whip of cords.
 - Jesus says: "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers". - Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11
 - The authorities are indignant and seek to kill Jesus.



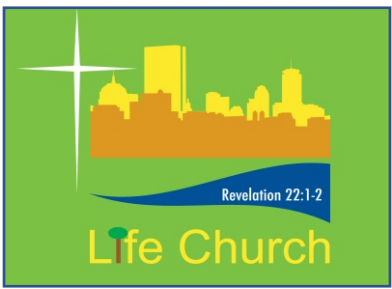
Observations (continued)

- Why was the activity in the temple courts a big deal?
 - The temple courts were the only part of the temple open to gentiles (i.e. Non-Jews).
 - Animals for sacrifice needed to be free of blemish or defect. This was why people paid for approved animals at the temple rather than bringing their own from far away.
 - Money for offerings needed to be in acceptable currency. This is why money changers were needed.
 - The problem was that these legitimate activities were crowding out the only worship space available to gentiles.



Observations (continued)

- In Psalm 69:7-12 the psalmist describes himself as someone enduring persecution because of his zeal (jealousy) for God's Kingdom.
- Jesus' claim that he will raise up the temple in 3 days, will be cited during his trial.
- The final paragraph pointing out that Jesus wouldn't entrust himself even to those who believed in him is an introduction to the account of Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus in John 3.



Bible Project: Heaven & Earth





Lessons



- Last month we learned that Jesus has a team of disciples - People who are:
 - Following Jesus
 - Being changed by Jesus
 - Committed to the mission of Jesus
- Are you following Jesus or trying to get Jesus to follow you?
- Are you being changed by Jesus or trying to change Jesus to conform to you?
- Are you committed to Jesus' mission or trying to get Jesus to commit to your agenda?
- Are you following Jesus together with a team that shares these commitments?
- When Jesus cleansed the Temple, it demonstrated how zeal for God's house consumed him. in what ways does zeal for God's house consume you and your team members?



Life Groups



Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page "Big Blueprint" diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a "wanderer", "follower", "achiever", or a "leader"?
 - What's your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you've been identifying.



Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service May 10, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/13) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 17, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/20) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 24, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/27) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 31, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (6/3) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) June 7, 2026
- Sunday Connection June 7, 2026 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (6/10) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



Life Groups

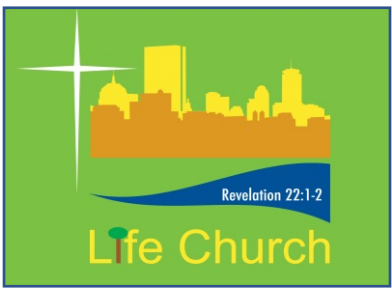


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- What level are you at with these?
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Q&A / Discussion





Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups