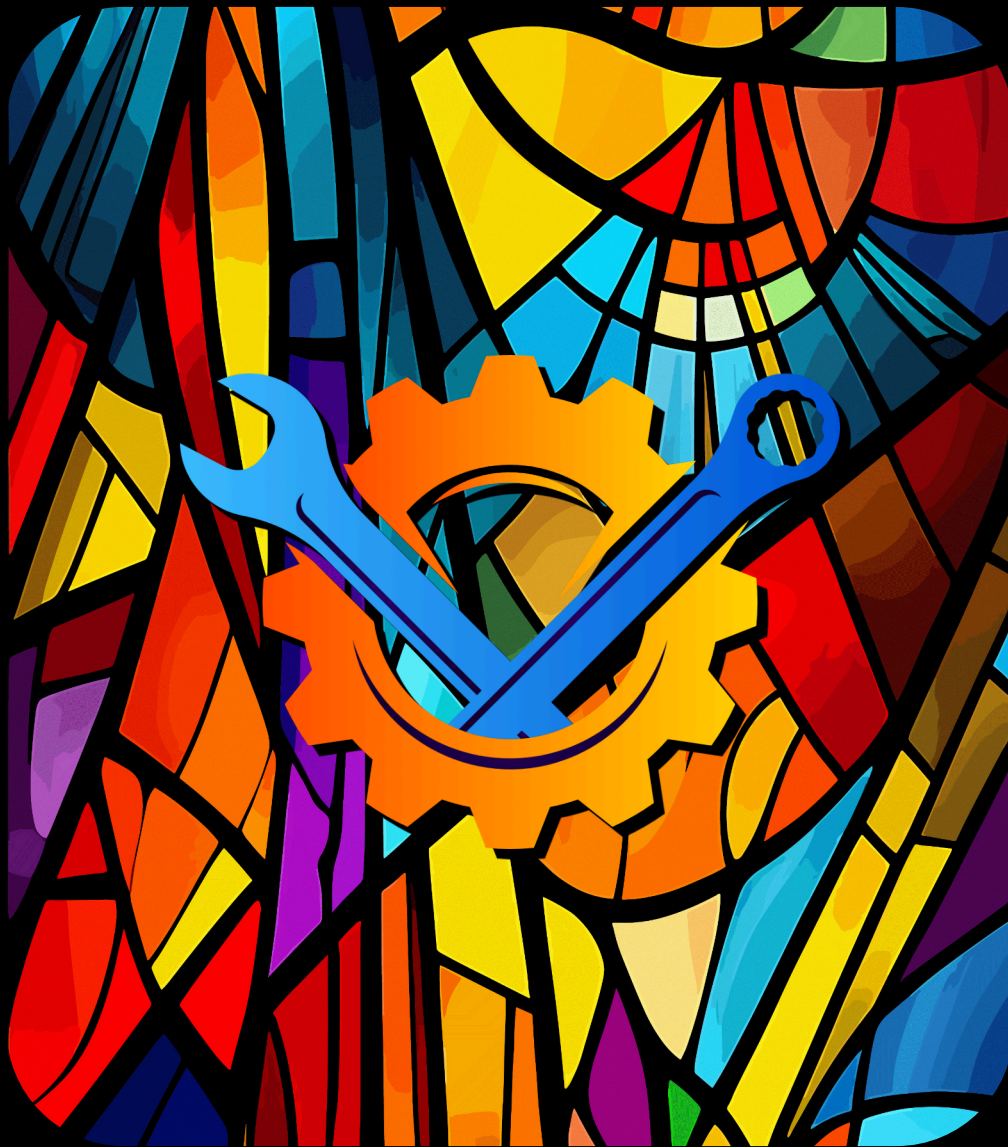


ZEAL FOR OUR FATHER'S HOUSE



Temple Maintenance





1. **Temple Maintenance 101—Cleaning:** Jesus went up to Jerusalem to clean the temple, 2:13-17.

- (John 2:13–17 ESV) The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 **And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple**, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” 17 **His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”**

I. **THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ...**

- A. Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and found the court of the Gentiles to be more a place of livestock sales and money changing than worship.
- B. He made a whip and drove them all out of the temple.
- C. He poured out the coins and overturned the tables of the money-changers.
- D. He told those who sold the pigeons to take those things away and not make his Father’s house a house of trade.
- E. His disciples remembered the OT prophecy that “zeal for your house will consume me.”

II. **OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS ...**

- A. Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing what he needed to do when he arrived.
- B. Two reasons for this. 1) he is God, and 2) this practice of selling and money changing would have been well known throughout the land.
- C. Jesus went with the purpose of directing people away from the old covenant of law and works to the new covenant of grace.
- D. He made a whip of cords and miraculously drove them all out of the temple—those who were selling, the livestock, the money changers.
- E. The temple area in which this happened was the court of the Gentiles—the large area around the temple and the other courts.
- F. The court of the Gentiles was the area designated for non-Jews that desired to worship the Lord.

2. **Why some regard this as a miracle (and I agree).**

A. The text is very clear—Jesus singlehandedly drove them **all** out of the temple.

- (John 2:15 ESV) And making a whip of cords, **he drove them all out of the temple**, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

B. This would have taken a supernatural effort.

C. He cleared the massive area called the Court of the Gentiles that was filled with people and livestock.

The Court of the Gentiles was the outer perimeter of the temple and measured approximately 900 by 1200 feet. The most conservative estimates of those in Jerusalem for the Passover event range from about 100,000 to upwards of 1,000,000 people.

D. Jesus drove them all out and there is no biblical record of harm coming to people or animals.

E. There is no statement in Scripture of any opposition during the event.

F. Even those who challenged him afterwards did not seem to offer any resistance in the moment.

G. Those who disapproved of his actions would have made up a formidable opposition.

- i. The large number of capable men (*and women?*) selling livestock who would have been physically able to handle livestock in a crowded area.
- ii. The Jewish religious leaders and their followers.
- iii. The temple guard possibly numbering 300.

H. This outburst of righteousness revealing the glory and power of God Almighty in the Person of Jesus Son of God must have surprised and stunned them into submission—think shock and awe.

I. We find a similar and related event later in John.

- (John 18:4–6 ESV) Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I am he.**” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 **When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.**

J. The Roman garrison assigned to oversee the activity at the temple for incidents such as an insurrection or any other civil disturbance never came to intervene.

3. What was Jesus's motivation in cleansing the temple and what does that mean for us?

- (John 2:17 ESV) His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."
- A. When Jesus made water into wine, he signaled that change was coming.
 - B. With this sign he set the change in motion.
 - C. His disciples witnessed this amazing event and remembered what was written in the OT Scriptures and came to realize what had happened.
 - D. Jesus's passion to do what was necessary to establish true worship of the Father consumed him.
 - E. To understand what this means we need to define our terms: zeal, house and consume.

Zeal ... ζήλος [zelos] ... excitement of mind, passion; intense emotion that compels action; excessive fervor to do or accomplish some end.

House ... οἶκος [oikos] ... a dwelling (literal or figurative); a dwelling that serves as living quarters for one or more families; the place where one has fixed his residence, one's settled abode.

Consume ... κατασθίω [katesthiō] ... to eat up, i.e. to devour (literally or figuratively); to consume by eating; to utterly consume, destroy.

4. Temple Maintenance 102–Thoroughness: Jesus knew he needed to cleanse the temple of everything that was desecrating it.

Desecrate ... to profane; to violate the sacred character of (an object or place) by blasphemous, or sacrilegious action; to treat something sacred or solemn in an irreverent or disrespectful way.

- A. Christ's zeal consumed him as he felt in the depth of his being the reproaches with which the Jews were reproaching the Father.
 - (Psalm 69:9 ESV) For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
- B. This cleansing was an act of love for the Father.
- C. Christ's zeal consumed him as he saw the arrogance of his foes on display as they forgot and no longer trembled at God's words.
 - (Psalm 119:139 ESV) My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.
 - (Isaiah 66:2 ESV) All these things my

hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

5. The Jews demanded a sign to prove that Jesus had the authority to do these things, 2:18-22.

- (John 2:18–22 ESV) So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

- A. Only after Jesus accomplished his task of clearing the temple did his challengers dare approach him.
- B. They asked what sign he could show them that he had the authority to do these things.
- C. Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- D. The Jews were incredulous that he could think he could rebuild what had taken forty-six years to build.
- E. They didn't realize he was speaking about the temple of his body.
- F. When his temple was raised up in three days, his disciples remembered this and believed Scripture (the OT prophecy) and believed Jesus's words.

6. Many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing, 2:23-25.

- (John 2:23–25 ESV) Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.
- A. Many believed but Jesus knew that some who "believed" did not truly believe because he knew what was in people.
 - B. Those who believe to salvation follow him and do the will of the Father—the perseverance of the saints.



MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD TODAY



1. We, as the Church and as individuals, are God's temple and are commanded to keep the temple free from any destroying influences.

- (1 Corinthians 3:16–17 ESV) Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
- (1 Corinthians 6:19–20 ESV) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Temple ... ναός [naos] /nah-os/] ... a building considered as the house or dwelling place of a deity where the deity could be worshiped; used of the temple at Jerusalem; metaphorically the spiritual temple consisting of the saints of the Church age.

A. We are God's temple—The Spirit dwells in us.

B. Those who would destroy this temple are warned.

Destroy ... to corrupt, to mess up – to make a mess of or create disorder in; perhaps with the idea of ruining or making useless by its disorder.

C. The warning is severe because God's temple is holy.

D. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and has been bought with a price so it must be maintained as such since we are not our own but God's.

E. We maintain regular cleansing of the temple of God by walking in the light and confessing sin.

- (1 John 1:7–9 ESV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- (2 Corinthians 7:1 ESV) Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit,

bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- (Psalm 32:5 ESV) I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

F. We are commanded to separate ourselves from the corrupting influences of unequal alliances.

- (2 Corinthians 6:14–18 ESV) Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

2. **Temple Maintenance 103–Ultimatum:** We clean up the mess or Jesus will, Revelation 2-3.

- (Revelation 2:1 ESV) To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.’
- (1 Corinthians 11:30–32 ESV) 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.
- (Revelation 2:2 ESV) I know your works.
- (Revelation 2:14 ESV) ... I have a few things against you.