

Title: RESURRECTING THE TEMPLE, JOHN 2:13-22
(Chatham, NJ; 03/08/15, AM) [Pd – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: When Jesus disrupts the Temple activity, he predicts his death and resurrection in response to the question by the authorities.

Purpose: To examine the incident and the discussion that follows.

Introduction:

1. This could be an early cleansing, or it could be that John places the later cleansing here to make a theological point.
2. Either way the setting is the same: Passover.
3. Remember that John writes with the desire of bringing others to faith, 20:30-31.
4. He describes the events in Jesus' life with an eye to what he did as well as an eye to what the church believed at the time of his writing.
5. Twice in this passage he makes us aware of what the disciples learned and believed; he says, "His disciples remembered."
6. Let's see what else we can take from this.

I. Jesus Disrupts the Temple Activities

- A. Those who experienced it: disciples and others
 1. It was extremely disruptive
 2. He used a whip!! (15)
 3. He overturned tables and drove out the animals
 4. His disciples were, no doubt, dumbfounded watching his rampage
 5. The merchants were perplexed: they were the objects of his wrath
 6. The authorities were incensed
- B. The disciples reflected on it later
 1. They saw a fulfillment of Psalm 69:9
 2. He was consumed with zeal for his Father's house
 3. Jesus showed them the real purpose of the Temple
- C. The theological lesson for the church
 1. Solomon's prayer of dedication, 1 Kings 8:27-53
 2. The Temple was a place to offer prayers
 3. It was also a place to sacrifice, atone for sins, and learn of God's ways
 4. Jeremiah 7:1-15 attacks the people for delusion that the mere presence of the Temple protected them: they attended but failed to obey
 5. The buying and selling in the Temple in John demonstrates that people have once again failed to see the real purpose of God's house

II. The Jews Demand a Sign, 18

- A. Same as questioning his authority?
 1. In Mt. and Mk. the question of authority does not follow the cleansing directly
 2. Luke only says it happened "one day"
 3. Since the Jews demanded signs, however, the meaning is similar
 4. They wanted Jesus to justify his actions
- B. What did the church think about the question?
 1. At the time perhaps the disciples were curious to know the answer
 2. John lists several "signs" for the disciples to be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah – 2:11 is the first that John uses
 3. Yet "an evil generations seeks a sign," (Mt. 12:38-39)

4. Though they will get the sign of Jonah
5. Some "signs" will never be enough for some people
6. The sign that Jesus promises here: the resurrection

III. Mysterious Saying about the Temple Is What Points to the Resurrection

A. The disciples remembered, 22

1. Obviously Jesus refers to his own body
2. And by the time John writes, the Temple has been destroyed
3. The church thus remembers that the resurrection has given them new hope

B. Theological Implications

1. For the first time in John, Jesus contrasts the physical meaning of things with the deeper spiritual significance
2. The authorities don't get the reference (19)
3. I don't think the disciples did either, at least until later
4. John speaks for them in verses 21-22
5. The saying made sense once the resurrection changed everything

Conclusions:

1. Don't miss John's points.
2. Jesus' zeal for the Temple fulfills a prediction that the Messiah will keep God's purposes in mind and cleanse our false attempts to serve him.
3. The resurrection transcends our need for a particular place of worship.
4. Now we are called to "worship in spirit and in truth," John 4:23.
5. We worship God through our devotion to His Son.
6. Remember Christ's zeal; remember the resurrection!