

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL · PRINT EDITION

# Zeal for His House

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 08 · November 1, 2026

**JOHN 2:19 (ESV)**

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

**HOW THIS WORKS**

- Five days, Monday through Friday — about ten minutes each. Every day has a prayer to open, a short reading, something to think about, one action step, and a prayer to close.
- This week’s homework runs underneath all five days: Memorize John 2:19, and tell one person this week why the resurrection is the reason you believe.
- Keep a pen with it. The lines are part of the devotional.
- Prefer your phone? The same devotional is online each week at [thesummit.life](https://thesummit.life) → The Gospel of John → Reading Plan.

**THIS WEEK**

Sunday the gentle picture of Jesus got shattered. He walked into the temple at Passover, found a market in His Father’s house, and drove it out. When the religious leaders demanded, “Prove it,” He answered with one sign: His own resurrection. This week you will take it one scene at a time: a market in the Father’s house, the zeal that would consume Him, a demand for a sign, the temple of His body, and a Savior who knew exactly what was in the crowd’s hearts.

**DAY 1 · MONDAY****A Market in His Father's House**

JOHN 2:13–16 · ISAIAH 56:7

**Opening prayer***Lord, show me who Jesus really is, even when He doesn't fit the picture I carry. Amen.*

Read John 2:13–16. It is Passover, the biggest week of the Jewish year. Jewish men were required to come to Jerusalem, and the city swelled to several times its size. Jesus walks the three or four days uphill from Galilee with everyone else and goes up to the temple.

What He finds there is a market. Oxen, sheep, and pigeons for sale. Money-changers at their tables, swapping foreign coins for the temple tax and taking a cut. And it is all set up in the Court of the Gentiles, the one place a non-Jew could come to pray. God had said His house would be “called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7). The nations came to pray and found a stockyard.

Jesus doesn't walk past it. He makes a whip of cords, drives them out with the sheep and oxen, pours out the coins, and overturns the tables. Then He tells the pigeon sellers, “Do not make my Father's house a house of trade.”

Notice that word: *my* Father's house. Not “our.” Everyone in that courtyard would have heard the claim. This isn't a reformer protesting bad business practices. It is the Son, walking into His Father's house.

**Jesus didn't come to the temple as a visitor. He came as the Son.**

**Reflect**

**What picture of Jesus did you grow up with? What does this scene add to it that you might rather leave out?**

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**Today's action step**

Start this week's homework today. Write John 2:19 on a card and put it where you will see it every day: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

**Closing prayer***Jesus, You are the Son, and the house belongs to Your Father. Let me see You as You are. Amen.*

**DAY 2 · TUESDAY****Zeal for Your House**

JOHN 2:17 · PSALM 69:9

**Opening prayer***Lord, give me a heart that cares about Your honor the way Jesus did. Amen.*

Read John 2:17, then Psalm 69:9. As the coins hit the floor and the animals scatter, the disciples remember a line from Scripture: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

David wrote it in Psalm 69. He was mocked and persecuted because he cared so deeply about God’s house and God’s honor. Zeal is a consuming passion. It isn’t a bad mood. It is love for God that cannot stand to see Him dishonored.

That is why Jesus’ anger was right. It wasn’t a lost temper or wounded pride. He wasn’t angry for Himself. He was angry for His Father.

Look closely at what John does with David’s words. David wrote, “Zeal for your house *has consumed* me.” John says it *will* consume Jesus. The disciples were afraid His actions would bring the same kind of persecution David faced. They were right, and it went further than they imagined. The zeal that cleared the temple would carry Jesus all the way to the cross.

**Jesus’ zeal for His Father’s house would cost Him His life.**

**Reflect**

**What makes you angry? Is it usually about your comfort and pride, or about God’s honor? Write down one honest example.**

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**Today’s action step**

Say John 2:19 out loud three times today: morning, noon, and night. Then ask God to give you a heart that cares about what He cares about.

**Closing prayer***Jesus, Your zeal for Your Father’s house consumed You. Thank You for loving Him, and me, that much. Amen.*

**DAY 3 · WEDNESDAY****What Sign Do You Show Us?**

JOHN 2:18–20 · MATTHEW 26:59–61

**Opening prayer***Lord, I don't want to demand proof on my terms. Teach me to hear Your answer. Amen.*

Read John 2:18–20. The religious leaders don't argue with what Jesus did. They question His right to do it. "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" In other words: Who do You think You are? Prove it.

Jesus gives them a sign, just not the kind they wanted. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." No miracle on demand. A promise.

They scoff. Herod's temple had been under construction for forty-six years. Raise it up in three days? Ridiculous.

But they never forgot the words. Three years later, at His trial, witnesses twisted them into a charge: "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days'" (Matthew 26:61). They heard exactly what He said, missed what He meant, and used it against Him. That can still happen when we demand that Jesus prove Himself on our terms.

**Jesus answered their demand for proof with a promise: His own resurrection.**

**Reflect**

**What proof have you been waiting for before you trust Jesus fully? Write it down. Is it a sign He has promised, or one you have demanded?**

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**Today's action step**

Write one sentence that answers this question: Why does the resurrection matter to whether I believe? Keep it. You will use it Friday.

**Closing prayer***Jesus, You gave the only sign that matters. Help me hear what You said and believe who You are. Amen.*

**DAY 4 · THURSDAY****The Temple of His Body**

JOHN 2:21–22 · JOHN 1:14

**Opening prayer***Lord Jesus, You are where I meet God. Draw me near. Amen.*

Read John 2:21–22, then John 1:14. John lets us in on what no one standing in the courtyard understood: “he was speaking about the temple of his body.”

The temple was where heaven touched earth. It was sacred not because of its marble and gold, but because it was God’s house, the place where He promised to dwell with His people.

Now Jesus says the place where God dwells is Him. John told us in chapter 1 that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The word means He pitched His tent among us. The God who once filled a tent in the wilderness and a temple in Jerusalem was standing in that courtyard in a human body. You don’t meet God through a building, a ritual, or a sacrifice bought at a booth. You meet Him in Jesus.

Even the disciples didn’t get it at first. But “when therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed.” The resurrection turned remembered words into faith.

**The temple was no longer the place to meet God. Jesus was.**

**Reflect**

**Where do you tend to go looking for God apart from Jesus: a place, a feeling, a routine, your own effort?  
What would it look like to come to God through Jesus alone?**

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**Today’s action step**

Say John 2:19 from memory today. Then read John 1:14 and write down one thing it tells you about where God chose to dwell.

**Closing prayer***Jesus, You are the true temple. I come to God through You. Amen.*

## DAY 5 · FRIDAY

**He Knew What Was in Man**

JOHN 2:23–25 · JOHN 20:29

**Opening prayer***Lord, You know my heart better than I do. Make my faith real. Amen.*

Read John 2:23–25. Jesus stays in Jerusalem through the feast, and people take notice. “Many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.” That sounds like exactly what John’s gospel is after.

Then comes a surprising line: “Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them.” John uses the same word twice. They *believed* in Him, but He didn’t *entrust* Himself to them, “for he himself knew what was in man.” They were impressed by what they saw. Jesus could see their faith went no deeper than that.

This sets up the next two chapters, where Jesus meets three people one at a time: a religious leader named Nicodemus, a Samaritan woman at a well, and a royal official from Cana. Each will find out what kind of faith Jesus is looking for. Years later He would tell Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (20:29).

So the week ends where Sunday did. The religious leaders demanded a sign, and Jesus promised one: His own resurrection. His disciples believed His word once He rose.

**The question isn’t whether you’re impressed with Jesus. It’s whether you believe Him.**

**Reflect**

**If Jesus looked at your faith this week, what would He find: amazement at what He does, or trust in who He is? Write down what would move you from one toward the other.**

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**Today’s action step**

This is the heart of this week’s homework. Take the sentence you wrote Wednesday and tell one person today why the resurrection is the reason you believe. Then say John 2:19 from memory.

**Closing prayer***Jesus, You know what is in me. I don’t want to be just impressed with You. I believe You. Amen.***LOOKING AHEAD**

Next Sunday: Week 9 · You Must Be Born Again · John 3:1–15 · November 8, 2026. Memory verse this week: John 2:19.