

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

As we transition to chapter 2 this week, we start to see Jesus begin His work. As He is in Jerusalem for the Passover, we see the authority of Christ for the first time in the gospel of John. He goes to the temple and He comes in and literally cleans house. He sees that His Father's house has been used for personal gain and not for worshipping the Lord. While this passage shows that Jesus is going to restore the temple, He also shows in the chapter that it is not just for the building itself, it is for the kingdom of the Lord. He knows that His sacrifice is going to be for eternity.

READ John 2:13-25

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. **15** When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. **16** And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" **17** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." **18** So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do you show to us, since You do these things?" **19** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** Then the Jews 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 of the temple of His body. **22** Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. **23** Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. **24** But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, **25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. Why is Jesus so upset at what He sees in the temple?
2. What is Jesus showing in that He will raise the temple in three days?
3. What does it mean that Jesus knows all men?
4. How can we use this passage in the mindset of discipling others?
5. How can this section of scripture give us hope when things get really difficult?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- We see Jesus clear out the temple and while He is there to do it physically, He also is giving us the vision of what is going to happen with His sacrifice for everyone. The end of chapter two focuses on how people were coming to believe in Him based on the signs that He was doing. The last two verses tell us that Christ knows all men, and that He knows what is in each of us. This leads to the application for this week's discussion. Think about the last question that goes to hope. As we walk through different things in our lives, especially when they get really difficult, we can always lean on that hope. As you walk through the next couple of weeks, try and find some way to show someone else what that hope can do for us. It may be as a testimony and how you live, or it may be a conversation that you have. Whatever it may be, think about how we can live out that hope so that others can see how Christ may know them as well.