



John 2:12-25 Small Group Questions

- After reading the passage, what sticks out to you?
- What emotions characterize Jesus in this passage? What emotions characterize those in the Temple?
 - Why do you think Jesus is so angry?
 - Why do we as Christians sometimes become uncomfortable talking about Jesus' anger?
 - Wesley discussed that Jesus' anger might have something to do with the activities happening in the temple when He arrived. As Wesley said, "He is bothered that He hears the bleating of sheep instead of the murmuring of prayer." Why do you think that would bother Jesus?
 - Wesley noted that the people in this story are not giving Jesus their total attention. Instead, they have made worship of God something that they do halfheartedly. How do we sometimes fail to give Jesus the attention He deserves?
 - What happens to our hearts when we don't give Him proper attention?
 - How do we minimize irrelevant distractions to focus more on Christ? When have you had to do this?
 - What characterizes genuine worship of Jesus versus obligatory, rote, or ungentle attendance of church?

- Wesley told us that the whip that Jesus makes was likely made from grass; it would not have actually harmed people. If the crowds were not fleeing from Jesus' whip, what do you think made them run away?
 - Wesley said that the people were running from His presence. Everyone could sense that Jesus had real authority that they had to listen to. When did you first learn to acknowledge Jesus' authority over your life?
 - Even though Jesus flips over the tables in the Temple, He doesn't tell people *why* He's angry and flipping tables. Jesus' authority means that we are not always owed answers. What is the proper response to Jesus when He does not tell us *why* something is happening our life? Why do you think Jesus doesn't give us the answer to *why* every time we want it?
 - Wesley likened the temple to our lives, saying that Jesus will sometimes overturn tables in our lives to minimize distraction and bring us closer to Him. When have you experienced Jesus overturning tables in your life?
 - What does it look like to properly acknowledge Jesus' authority in seasons when He's overturning tables in our life?
- Jesus manifesting His glory in the Temple shows ultimately that He is holier and more important than any other holy site. What are other things that people in our culture are tempted to make more central in their lives than Jesus? What are things that *Christians* are tempted to make more central in their lives than Jesus?
 - How do we ensure that Jesus is not at the margin of our life, but the center?
 - As a small group, what does it look like for Jesus to be at the center of our group? What would be some signs that He wasn't at the center of our group?