

“Keeping Our Worship Pure” John 2:13-25

This passage calls believers to examine their worship and to see again how to keep it pure.

- **KEEP YOUR MOTIVES PURE IN WORSHIP.**

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” John 2:13-17 (New International Version)

Human anger does not achieve God’s righteous purpose.
James 1:20 (Good News Translation)

What’s Wrong with These Worshiper’s Motives?

- Most were interested in making worship convenient. (See 2 Samuel 24:24.)

Worship = any sacrifice meant to express love to God

(See 1 Peter 2:5 and Romans 12:1: “spiritual sacrifices.”)

- The religious system was manipulating God’s people instead of appealing to their hearts.

Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³“It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’” Matthew 21:12-13 (NIV)

- The people were disrupting Gentile worship in the only place that was available to them.

- **WORSHIP JESUS, NOT RELIGION.**

Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” ²⁰The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John 2:18-22 (New International Version)

. . . So God does away with all the old sacrifices and puts the sacrifice of Christ in their place. ¹⁰Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do, we are all purified from sin by the offering that he made of his own body once and for all. Hebrews 10:9-10 (GNT)

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified . . . 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (NIV)

- **WORSHIP GOD, NOT GOD’S PERFORMANCE.**

Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. ²⁴But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. ²⁵He did not need man’s testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man. John 2:23-25 (NIV)