



In John chapter 2 we read about Jesus clearing the temple courts. The temple was full of people who were trying to worship God, but merchants had moved in with all their animals, causing chaos in a space intended for holiness. In other Gospels, we read about how these merchants were taking advantage of the worshippers, but this week we will focus only on what we read in John. Using the questions below, take some time to read this passage and discuss the interactions Jesus had with the merchants, the Jews, and his disciples.

1. Teller shared about an experience at Arlington National Cemetery. What physical spaces carry significant meaning in your life or what is your equivalent of “hallowed ground?”
2. **Read John 2:13-16.** Jesus takes strong action to cleanse the temple of distractions from worship. What distractions exist in your own life, keeping you from worshiping God with everything you have?
3. Jesus asserts his authority over the temple in this passage. What is the difference between the authority of religious institutions and that of Jesus? Can you think of times people have been confused about whose authority is greater?
4. Read Jesus’ interaction with the Jews in **John 2:18-21**. The Jews were looking for a sign proving Jesus’ authority. Tell us about a moment that convinced you that Jesus is who he claims to be.
5. **Read John 2:21-22.** The disciples spent years with Jesus experiencing the highs of his miracles and lows of his trial, execution, and burial. Their belief in him was confirmed when he rose from the grave. We all go through cycles of spiritual highs and lows. Tell us about a spiritual low point and what brought you through it.
6. **Read John 2:23-25.** What do you take from these verses? Why wouldn’t Jesus entrust himself to humanity? What does it mean when it says Jesus “did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person?”
7. Spend some time in prayer, lifting each other up and asking God to help you worship Him more fully.