

# His Father's Business

John 2:13—22

## Introduction

Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee, about sixty or seventy miles north of Jerusalem. That may not seem like a big deal to us, but it's a three- or four-day walk. The temple was the only place to offer sacrifices, so every Jew was required to come to Jerusalem for at least one of the main celebrations: Passover, Pentecost, or the Feast of Tabernacles. John records three Passovers. That's where we get Jesus' three-year ministry. But the first time we see Jesus in the temple is when He is twelve years old in **Luke 2**.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Temple Sighting (Luke 2:41—51)

The boy Jesus was in Jerusalem with his parents for Passover when He was twelve. When it was time to leave, they thought He was with relatives. But He had stayed at the temple and *was listening to [the teachers of the Law] and asking them questions (Luke 2:46)*. When Mary asked why He had done this, He said, *"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house" (Lue 2:49)*? The King James renders this question, *"Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"* Because of the construction of the sentence in Greek, both translations work. His business was to be in His Father's house, learning from the teachers of the Law.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Sighting (John 2:13—22)

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus is driving out the money-changers and overturning their tables. Making His own whip, He drives out all the animals being sold there, along with the men selling them. This image of Jesus is definitely not the "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" we are taught about in Sunday School. People coming from long distances couldn't bring their own animals with them for sacrifice. They would have to buy them in Jerusalem once they arrived for the festival. The money-changers were there because these animals must be bought with sacred temple currency and all the common folk had was Roman coin. For convenience's sake, over time, this business got moved into the outer court of the temple, the "Court of the Gentiles", where women and Gentiles worshiped. All this business was a barrier to worship for many people.

## Zeal for God's Honor

John quotes **Psalm 69:9** here, *Zeal for Your house will consume me*. With all the selling and trading going on, the Outer Court looked and sounded more like the market. The temple was where God met with His people. His very presence rested in the Most Holy Place on the Ark of the Covenant. People were there to worship. How could they worship in this atmosphere? God's honor was at stake. They were defiling His house. Money had become more important than worship. Business was their god.

## God's Honor in the Church

(Read **1Peter 2:4—5**). Peter says that we are being built up as a spiritual house. The church is the house of God. The church gathers to worship God, hear the Word, and receive the Sacraments. But what if our worship is casual or superficial? That's one reason for the worship series in the Catechesis

Minute. It's important for everyone in the service to understand why we say what we say and do what we do.

## God's Honor in the Christian

(Read **John 14:15—17**). The Holy Spirit dwells within each believer, making each one of us a house of God. Do we bring honor to Him with our words and actions? This is motivation for us to live the way He would have us live.

## God's Honor in the World

The world belongs to God. But He is not being honored there. Do we share this zeal for God's honor? Bruce Milne says in his book, ***The Message of John: The disciple of Jesus who shares His zeal for God's honour in the world will necessarily be concerned about the plight of the poor world-wide, the oppression of totalitarian regimes of both right and left, the denial of rights, racial discrimination, the despair of the unemployed and other groups without proper social welfare, the street children of our great cities, the tragic victims of physical and emotional violence, and the millions of unborn who are denied the right to life by 'easy' abortion.*** Let us be about His business of standing up for the honor of God, in the church, in our lives, and in the world.

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*And the peace of God,  
Which surpasses all understanding,  
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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