

Light & Life - The Book Of John
“How Do We Keep Worship Worthy?” John 2:12-25
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
July 9, 2023

Which Jesus Do You Worship: The Social Jesus or the Jesus of the Bible?

Big Idea:

To know Who Jesus is and to place our confident trust in Him as our Lord & Savior.

How Do We Keep Worship Worthy?

1. Remove Anything That Offends God

“After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. ¹³ When it was almost time for the **Jewish Passover**, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found men **selling** cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ **So 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. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, **“Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!”** ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

John 2:12-17 (NIV)

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will **come to His temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a **refiner's fire** or a **launderer's soap**. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will **have men who will bring offerings in righteousness**, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. ⁵ “So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty. **Malachi 3:1-5 (NIV)**

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having **a form of godliness but denying its power**. Have nothing to do with them.” **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. Keep Our Focus On Jesus

¹⁸ Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**" ²⁰ The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ **But the temple he had spoken of was his body.** ²² **After 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 (NIV)

"Let us **fix our eyes** on Jesus, the **author and perfecter** of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." **Hebrews 12:2-4 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Live For An Audience Of One

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

"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should **commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.**" **1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)**

Jesus said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my **follower**, you must **turn** from your selfish ways, take up your **cross daily**, and **follow me.** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Luke 9:23-24 (NLT)

Notes: _____

➤ **What needs to change for your worship to be worthy?**

My next right step, I will:

[] Turn from _____. Turn back to God by _____.

[] Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

[] Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism

[] Sign Up for Foundations Class in August

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family.]

Open in Prayer.

Icebreaker:

- ❖ What is your favorite two worship songs? Why?

Big Idea:

To know Who Jesus is and to place our confident trust in Him as our Lord & Savior.

How Do We Keep Worship Worthy?

1. Remove Anything That Offends God

Read John 2:12-17

Why did Jesus drive people and animals out of the temple?

What hinders you from true worship?

Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary - John.

By the first century, the festival was very different. It hardly resembled the solemn event of Israel's exodus from bondage in Egypt. The priesthood was completely corrupt, and the temple had been polluted by the priests' greed. The courts of the complex had become a mixture of flea market and stock market. This so-called "Annas Bazaar" was named for Annas, a godfather-like figure who once held the office of high priest but had been deposed by the Roman government more than fifteen years earlier. Since that time, he ruled through a successive series of puppet priests, most of them his sons, and continued to run a well-established con game on a grand scale. Put bluntly, he was corrupt to the core.

Throughout the year, but especially at Passover, all Jewish males were expected to visit the temple, to pay the tax required by the Law of Moses, and to sacrifice an animal. On Passover, the sacrifice was to be a lamb, and as always, it had to be without blemish or defect. Moreover, the tax had to be paid in shekels, not in foreign currency, which bore images forbidden by the Law.

Annas and his cronies set up stations in the temple courts for the purpose of exchanging foreign currency for shekels—for an exorbitant fee, of course. Then, he supplied sacrificial animals, for which he charged top price. If someone brought his own animal, an inspector would judge it unfit and offer another in trade . . . for additional cash. Undoubtedly, the inferior animal would become some other man's "superior" sacrifice later on. What a racket!

Read Malachi 3:1-5

What will the Lord cleanse to bring worship back to being worthy?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

What will be the underlining problem with the last days?

2. Keep Our Focus On Jesus

Read John 2:18-22

What sign did Jesus say he would give to prove He had authority?

Read Hebrews 12:2-4

How can we stay focused on what matters?

3. Live For An Audience Of One

Read John 2:23-25

Where do you seek approval & acceptance the most?

Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary - John.

John tells the story of Jesus cleansing the temple in Jerusalem to establish three primary truths:

1. *God owns His temple, not priests.* He called priests to steward the temple and to help people approach Him as He has commanded.
2. *God's Word is the only authority recognized in the temple, not the high priest or any other designated position.* Anyone acting contrary to His Word has no authority.
3. *God's Son came to claim ownership of the temple, and the religious "authorities" rejected Him.* This point is repeated often in John's narrative and ultimately leads to the final rejection of Jesus as the Messiah.

This incident also illustrates a practical truth for believers: *God's temple is sacred ground, a dedicated place of meeting between the Lord and His people.* In the Old Testament, the Lord used a physical structure for that purpose; first a tabernacle, which the Hebrews called the "tent of meeting," and then a permanent building in Jerusalem. The Lord was very specific about reserving everything in the temple for the purpose of worship. Once Jesus completed His work of atonement for the sins of the world, the place of meeting changed, but the standards remain the same. Believers are now His temples (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and we are to remain no less sanctified.

What do you think the Lord wants to drive out of your temple?

Close in prayer.