

# Gospels: Seeing Our Glorious God

John 2:13-22

"The Christ was Raised"—April 9, 2023



## Introduction

Why do we exist? The catechism reminds us that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That is why we exist. In the beginning, Adam and Eve enjoyed that purpose, but they believed Satan's lies and exchanged God's good rule for self-rule. Self-rule doesn't lead to life. Sin and rebellion leads to guilt, shame, regret, and death. Sin leaves us separated from God and desperately looking for the way home.

Every human being has a deep longing in their hearts for home. Some try to close the gap between themselves and a holy God with religion and being a good person. Others try to make it home by pursuing beauty and pleasure. Still others try to fulfill a longing for glory in their hearts by pursuing wealth, applause and the praise of man. We can deny that our heart's longing is actually for God and suppress it. Yet the reality is that God has created us and hardwired us with eternity in our hearts. If we go about our life thinking that the longing can be satisfied with the temporary things of earth, we will be heartbroken, disappointed and discontent. We won't find the life we are looking for, and we will always be looking for the way home. Do you understand the deep longing in your heart? Do you know that this is a God-given longing for your Creator? If so, how do we get back? How do we find our way home again?

There is only One who has the authority to show us the way home. His name is Jesus. He's not just a ticket to heaven that you grab, put in your pocket and forget about. The Jesus we meet in John 2 is better than we could imagine. Jesus is the life that our hearts long for. He IS the life! This is a big claim. Why should we trust Jesus? Why should we come to Jesus alone for the life our hearts long for?

## Sermon Outline

1. Trust Jesus because He cleared the way to God. Vs. 13-17
2. Trust Jesus because He IS the way to God. Vs. 18-22

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 13-17

This was the time of the Passover. The city was crowded with those who came to worship. They were celebrating the time just before the release of the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Here, the scene is the temple which represents the place where a holy God dwells with sinful men and women. Here, Jesus roars like a lion as He cleanses the temple from the money changers. Why was Jesus so angry?

Jesus was consumed with a passion for God's glory. The money changers' business distracted people from seeing God and coming to Him in the way He provides us through Christ. Are there ways that we have become like the merchants? Do those who know us as Christians leave us walking away with a bad taste in their mouth about God? If so, we have become like the merchants? We have become distracting. Sometimes, it's a matter of the heart. Are there ways that you have chased after profit, comfort or your own glory over and above the glory of God? Is there that competition in your heart? If Jesus showed up at your house today, are there tables He would flip over?

Jesus' zeal for God's glory does not mean a lack of care and concern for you and me. His zeal and love go together. This is His way of opening the door to God's mercy. The tables blocked the way to God. In cleansing the temple, Jesus was clearing the way. This is one good reason we should trust Him.

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 12

### 2. Read vs. 18-22

The religious leaders thought that they were in charge of the temple. Why doesn't Jesus show who He really is? Sometimes, we struggle and want a sign like the religious leaders. Their unbelief is not because of a lack of evidence. It is due to a hard heart. They need the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has all authority. The religious leaders don't recognize it because they don't want to.

The religious leaders were afraid of people believing in Jesus and losing their place, glory and position. If they can raise doubts about the credentials of Jesus, the spotlight is put on that. It is human nature to blame, hide or deflect, but it is dangerous to do that. Pride blinds us from seeing truth. Pride helps us justify our rejection of Jesus.

It could lead us to a place of questions. If God is good, why does He allow bad things to happen? When you question things, do you do so with your eyes and heart open, searching the scripture? We need to beware of questions being smoke screens to get us off the hook of dealing with the God of the Bible. Ask God to lead you to the truth and be willing to follow the truth wherever it leads. This may be daunting and scary, but if you read God's word and follow the truth, it is the path to life.

For centuries, the temple was the center of worship in Jerusalem. What Jesus says here is earth-shattering. Now that He has arrived, the physical temple is obsolete. He not only came to cleanse the temple, but to replace the temple. ([John 1:14](#)) The Passover pointed forward to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Not only did He clear the way to God, He IS the way to God because He is the temple.

Are you trusting Jesus, or are you walking a different path that you hope will lead to life? John 2 shows us that Jesus is the King. He is God in the flesh and we trust Him. Jesus, as our King, has every right to tell us how to live. Do you trust Him with everything?

How can we know that Jesus is trustworthy? Jesus' claim to rise from the dead is not a claim of a typical man. He is the Son of God. How can we know? The first disciples knew and believed because Jesus did rise from the dead. They saw Jesus resurrected. There were 500+ witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. Christians trust Jesus as Lord because of the resurrection. The Spirit of God has opened our eyes by His grace. We believe that the Bible is His word. The linchpin of Christianity is the resurrection. ([1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)) Trusting Jesus is priceless. Are you wrestling with this? Consider the following:

How do you account for hundreds of eyewitnesses? How do you account for the empty tomb? How do you account for the existence of the Christian church? Why would the witnesses to the resurrection be willing to suffer and die for this if it didn't happen and wasn't true?

The evidence is overwhelming, but that is not enough. You still have to choose. If you think you are a good person, see [John 2:24-25](#). We can hide things from others, but we can't hide them from God. Even though He knows it all, while we were sinners, Christ died for us. ([Romans 5:8](#)) He came the first time as a Lamb to give His life for us. He is coming a second time as a Lion to judge. Do you trust Him?

**Additional Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 19

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Matthew 22:23-33</a> "The God of the Living"
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