

J O H N

BELIEVE

"The Centrality of Christ in Worship"

INTRO: *The story of the Temple cleansing has been strategically located to the front of John's Gospel for thematic purposes to show Jesus replacing Jewish religious rituals and institutions with Himself. What does the temple cleansing episode teach us about our worship of God?*

- I. **God established His _____ as central for His people (2:12-13).** *The Temple in Jerusalem was where God's people met for His worship. God also established festivals to celebrate His great works. The greatest of these was **Passover**.*

- II. _____ - _____ **can replace the centrality of God's worship (2:14).** *If the greatest commandment is to worship God with all our heart, mind, and strength (Matt. 22:36-38), then the greatest sin is to **not worship God** with our entire being.*

- III. **Retain the centrality of God's _____ or reap the completeness of God's _____ (2:15-25).** *Jesus' temple cleansing was His attempt to purify corrupt worship.*
 - A. _____ - _____ **prevent others from God's worship.** *It's not about ME. The solution is to have Christ's attitude (Phil. 2:5-7).*

 - B. _____ **is the center of our worship.** *Jesus has replaced the Temple as our meeting place with God: Jesus provides our only access to God. Jesus makes our worship acceptable. Jesus displays God's glory most clearly. Jesus is the focus of Heaven's worship.*