

Unexpected Jesus

Lesson 1

John 2

March 22, 2020

Unexpected Upheaval

Introduction

In the movie “Taken,” the daughter of Bryan Mills (played by Liam Neeson), is kidnapped by human traffickers in Europe. Without giving too much away, Bryan goes to some great lengths to try and bring his daughter home. There is no doubting his rage at those trying to hurt her, and his devotion to his beloved daughter. This zeal is similar to what Jesus shows in the story of him at the temple. His beloved house is becoming sullied by sin, and Jesus took the time to fashion a whip to purify his sanctuary upon seeing the evil!

With both of these stories in John, we see Jesus as a bridegroom, acting to take care of his bride. In the first, he supplies her needs, using basins for washing to represent his sacrifice and service for his church. In the second, we see his zeal for his church to repent and come back to God, as a perfect offering. Jesus would eventually go to the most significant lengths to restore his bride to himself, offering himself as a sacrifice for her.

Memory verse: “But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.”

—John 2:24-25

Pray and read John 2.

What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What was it that took place on the third day? (John 2:1)
2. What did Jesus' mother report to Jesus? (John 2:3)
3. What was Jesus' reply to his mother? (John 2:4)
4. Why was the wine Jesus gave so peculiar to the master of the banquet? (John 2:10)
5. What was revealed through these signs? (John 2:11)
6. What did Jesus find in the temple courts? (John 2:14)
7. What was Jesus' response when the Jews asked for a sign? (John 2:19)
8. Why would Jesus not entrust himself to the people at the Passover festival? (John 2:23-25)

What does the passage mean?

1. Jesus told his mother that his hour had not yet come. In John 7:30, the writer also mentions that “his time had not yet come,” and then again in 8:20. What act was Jesus referring to when he eventually did say that his hour had come? (John 12:23-28, 17:1-5)
2. Why do you think Jesus performed the miracle even after telling his mother that his time had not yet come? (John 4:10-14) Why do you think he didn't take credit for this miracle?
3. In Jesus' culture, it was the groom's responsibility to provide the wine for the party. Yet it was Jesus that took on this duty. He did so on a lavish scale with quality and plentiful wine. What picture does this paint of Jesus' role in the imagery of the future wedding of Christ's bride, the church? (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-28; Revelation 19:6-9, 21:1-5)

4. The Bible says that our bodies are the new temple. The second story in John 2 describes Jesus' zeal towards purity in the temple. Does God still desire that the new temple remain purified? Why or why not? (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Applying the passage

1. In verse 25, it says that Jesus knew what was in each person. If Jesus had enough zeal and hatred toward the sin and debauchery in the physical temple that he made a whip and drove it out, what do you think his attitude is toward the sin in the temple of your body? What did he do to remove it? (Romans 5:8; Hebrews 9:14, 13:12)

