

Small Group Discussion Guide — August 1, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: The Passionate Jesus
 - Scripture: John 2:12-17
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

1. How did the knowledge of your having been fully forgiven find its way into your week?
2. As you interacted with others, how well were you able to recognize the whole person - body and soul? What effect did that have on the way you spoke to them? Ministered to them?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. What are the things you are most passionate about? The things that can stir you to anger? What is it about these things that affect you in this way?

ENGAGE

1. Read John 2:12-17. Imagine being one of the people in the temple courts and seeing all of this occur - the lead-up (12-14), Jesus's actions (15-16), and finally, His words (16).
 - How might the activities of those selling sacrificial animals undermine the glory of the Father, and make God smaller than He is?
 - In what ways do Christ's actions restore His Father's glory?
 - How do Jesus' words contribute to the restoration of that glory?
2. With that, consider the event from the perspectives of the different people in the courts: The vendors, the worshipers there to buy sacrificial animals, and the disciples. For each of these, consider:
 - What do Jesus's passion, actions, and words indicate to you? That is, what is your role in this event, and what is Jesus telling you about Himself, His Father, and your relationship with God?
 - How might you have responded to Jesus's challenge?

APPLY

1. Reconsider the things that stir your passions. How much of that passion comes from respecting and yielding to God's glory and lordship in your life? How much of it is a reflection of identity crises, idols and insecurities?
2. How might you use Christ's example in this passage, and other passages, to guide your own responses to situations that stir your passions?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ I desire to know you, love you, and serve you; I confess that my devotion to you is varied and that I have things I hold onto as mine. Please help me see anything in my life that is not of God's holiness or of your desire, so that the glory of God is made manifest in my life; and so that I am increasingly experiencing the joy of the Lord. Amen

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 16:21-23. What does this tell us about the lengths to which the Son would go to honor the Glory of His Father and to advance His kingdom?
2. Continue with verse 24 and then Luke 14:25-26. Given the lengths to which Jesus was willing to go, how far is He telling us we must be willing to go to honor God's glory? Consider how He provided not only the instruction to us, but also a compelling example to emulate.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 7:9-11, Psalm 69:9, Luke 14:25-26, Matthew 16:21-24

QUOTES:

To be right with God has often meant to be in trouble with men. A.W. Tozer

Love is defined by a willingness to give up my will – a voluntary crucifixion. Eugene Peterson

It is madness to wear ladies straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares: they should lash us to our pews. Eugene Peterson

A sober fear of God and His holiness is the same bigness needed to inspire our souls. Are we bored with God and His church because we have tried so hard to keep anyone from feeling this holy magnitude?