

Icebreaker:

Growing up in your family, who had the worst temper?

1. **Spiritual practice – Lectio Divina (Divine Reading):** Lectio Divina is an ancient practice of reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation to help you hear God's voice. Please have two different people read the entire passage (John 2:13-25) aloud. Then meditate silently and pray for God to help you understand the passage. Then answer: What stands out to you (What do you like? What don't you like? What surprises you? What is God saying?) in this passage? Take time for all to share.
2. What do you think was the purpose for people coming to Jerusalem and to the Temple? How would people selling animals for sacrifice and money changers inhibit this?
3. Jesus is obviously emotional and even angry. Knowing what we know about Jesus, does this seem out of character? Does it surprise you or bother you? How do you explain his anger?
4. Are there things that seem out of place (or would seem out of place) in our building or in our sanctuary at ZPC? Do they affect your sense of worship, building relationships, or learning?
5. At the end of the chapter, Jesus would not entrust himself to the people who believed in him after seeing his miracles for "he knew what was in everyone." What did he mean by this? Do you think of yourself as someone whom Jesus could "entrust himself" with?
6. Author and Pastor Tim Keller says, "You know the God you're following is real if he disturbs you; and is not real if he doesn't disturb you." In what ways do you see God disturbing you or disrupting your life?

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Theresa Beardsley, Amy Lynelle, Joe Mundil, and Ambur Pipkin (daughter of Noah's Ark Director Sherry Pipkin).
- > Prayers for the ZPC team serving in Spain and for Stan Johnson as he serves in Uganda.

This passage in John is fascinating because it lets us see a side of Jesus we don't often see. We see Jesus get angry and act on his anger. Is it ok that Jesus is angry? Well he was sinless and holy, wasn't he? This part of Jesus might make us think, surprise us, or even disturb us. In *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, the children ask if the Lion (representing Jesus) named Aslan is safe. "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver, "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good." Jesus may not always feel "safe" but Jesus is holy, loving, and good.

1. This question will take longer. That's ok. Take your time. Do read the passage aloud twice. Pause maybe 30-60 seconds and say, "Please reflect silently on the passage." Then discuss. The answers don't have to be long or even profound, but let everyone share.
2. The people are coming to the Temple to worship. They will need animals to sacrifice and may need to change money for their offering. Still those practices should not be happening in the Temple Courts. They distract from the primary purpose of worship.
3. For most of us, this is surprising or even confusing. Yet, Jesus was human and had emotions. But he didn't sin. So his anger is righteous anger. He is righting a wrong. Jesus is putting things in order and making a statement.
4. Feel free to share openly here. However, be careful not to let the talk become too negative. We are open to feedback if you feel open to sharing. Ideas might be things in the gathering space, if they are for sale; or the American Flag in the sanctuary.
5. Another translation says Jesus knew what was in a person's heart. This might mean he knew their intentions; maybe to harm him because he was dangerous, or to follow him because he was a magic miracle worker or could give them something.
6. Jesus' turning over the tables was literally disturbing. How does Jesus disturb or disrupt you? Perhaps he forces us to think sacrificially, to get way out of our comfort zones, to reach out to people we wouldn't normally reach out to, or to make changes in priorities and behavior. Jesus challenges us and changes us.