**“The Temple Renewed”**

Going deeper in John 2:13-22

**INTRODUCTION –** The Temple on Mount Zion in Jerusalem was at the center of Jewish life in the first century. More importantly, the temple was the dwelling place for the glory of God’s presence. The temple was the one place that heaven and earth came together. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ would radically change that.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**13**When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14**In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. **15**So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16**To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” **17**His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”**18**The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”**19**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”**20**They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” **21**But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22**After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What was the focus of Jesus’ anger when he entered the temple courts?

2. What was the significance of the temple to Israel and the Israelites?

3. Jesus answers the challenge put to him by saying: “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days”. What (who) were the people looking for? What did they think Jesus was saying? What was Jesus truly saying to them?

4. To what “place should you go to seek the Presence of God’s Glory? How does this impact your relationship with Jesus? How does this impact your worship?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks for the power of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

\*Ask the Lord to clear out the “courts” of your heart to make space for coming into the presence of God.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any false “temples” you have built that have taken the place of Jesus or that create obstacles to worshipping him.

\*Pray for those who, because of the Easter season, are seeking the truth. Ask that God will work through you and our church to guide them towards a relationship with Jesus.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.* During Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – a powerful event that changed the entire world. But what did it change? Take time to pray and consider the implications of Jesus rising from the dead. What if he had not? What impact does the truth of the resurrection have on your faith and your relationship with God?