

Digging Deeper: John 2:13–25

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Day 1

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you dig deeper into His Word this week. Read John 2:13–25. It's the time of Passover. Read Exodus 12 to understand the context of this annual Jewish event. Check out Deuteronomy 16 for why Jesus was heading into Jerusalem in the first place. What was happening in Jerusalem when Jesus arrived with his family and disciples? Why do you think Jesus felt so strongly about the vendors and what they were doing?

Day 2

Pray about what God wants you to learn today from some extra study in His Word about Sunday's message. Read John 2:13–25. Check out Deuteronomy 14:22–28 and Leviticus 1 for some context about what kinds of activities were going on with the large crowds in and around the temple. Jews who traveled great distances had to be able to buy sacrificial animals near the temple; however, the merchants were selling them and exchanging money inside the temple, in the outer courts, where the Gentiles were supposed to have space to pray and worship God. What does this commercial activity say about the priorities of the temple/church leaders? What kind of warning is this to us about our priorities at church? What would Jesus say if he arrived at our church worship service?

Day 3

Pray for how Jesus wants you to learn from His Word today. Read John 2:13–25. For additional context, also read Matthew 21:12–13, Mark 11:15–18 and Luke 19:45–46. All four disciples write independently, yet consistently, about this event. What does this tell you about the importance of this event? What do we learn about Jesus' character and His priorities? Check out Psalm 69:9. What does this tell us about how we should feel about our priorities, our mission?

Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Read John 2:13–25. This is a major confrontation by Jesus of the Jewish leaders who had allowed worship to deteriorate into commerce and convenience for some, at the expense of others seeking to worship God. How did they challenge Him? How did Jesus respond? Read Psalm 16:10–11. How was this prophetic for events soon to come? How do we in our society today prefer spiritual or economic convenience at the expense of others who may also be seeking Jesus? When you read your Bible, do you believe Jesus the way His disciples did in verse 22?

Day 5

Pray for others in your life and how God is nudging you to come alongside them with kindness and joy today. Read John 2:13–25. Jesus knows all about human nature. Check out Jeremiah 17:9–10. What does it say about our hearts? Who really knows how bad it is? We need to be seeking God's forgiveness every day. How can we know if we are doing this effectively? Read Luke 6:43–45. Do you have an accountability partner to ensure your life (your heart) is producing good fruit? How does this reflect Jesus' thinking in verses 23 & 24?

Day 6

As you pray, reflect and discuss with the Holy Spirit about the days of your week and how Jesus wants you to apply your thoughts, feelings and answers from digging deeper to work in your life for His glory. Read John 2:13–25. What insights from the verses this week seem most significant to you personally? What steps can you take this week to begin putting your observations into practice?