

Re-Ligio

Read John 2v13-22

In the first century, the temple was the center of Judaism. It was the place where sins were forgiven and where God's presence came to earth, and it had been regarded as the place where these things had happened for many, many years. At the core of Jesus' ministry was the redefinition of long held religious symbols.

How is Jesus redefining the temple and its function in John 2v13-22?

In this passage, Jesus is challenging deeply held religious convictions about how God was in the world and how he worked within the world. How do you see Jesus' words still challenging our own deeply held religious convictions about God's presence and work in the world?

It was suggested that followers of Jesus are meant to hold things in tension. What do you think that means for the church?

We all know people with different ideas, beliefs, and convictions than our own. Sometimes those people are spouses, family members, or co-workers. What do you think holding things in tension means for those relationships?

While Jesus' criticism of the temple may seem harsh, he speaks both from within and from a place of great love. How do you disagree with others and yet speak with great love? What is involved in being able to do that?

Read 1 Peter 2v4-10 and 1 Corinthians 6v19.

By talking about his own body instead of the temple in John 2, Jesus seems to indicate that his own body is to be and do what the temple was and did. How do the above verses take this idea even further?

If Jesus were to show up at your temple [read: *your body*], how would he respond? What do you think Jesus might say to you?