

The authority of Jesus: a pure church and a genuine faith
(Jn 2.13-25; 12-13-20am)

Central Thought: Jesus will use His authority to guard the purity of the church and the genuineness of faith

I. Jesus asserts His authority over the church (13-17)

- A. Setting: Passover Feast at Temple in Jerusalem (13)
- B. Problem: Focus on commerce had taken the focus off pure worship (14)
- C. Jesus' response: Jesus steps in where Jewish Leaders had stepped out (15-17)
 - 1. A display of righteous anger
 - 2. A testimony of divine nature
 - 3. An attitude of zeal for purity (for the dwelling place of God)

II. Jesus identifies Himself as the church (18-22) This sign helps us see how authority & faith go together

- A. Faith is induced as learn how to understand the signs of Jesus
- B. (God-given) Faith equips us to see and believe that Jesus is the Temple
- C. Faith helps us remember and believe (22)
 - 1. Faith teaches us to look back so we can see the way forward
 - 2. When your faith grows weak, look to the resurrection

III. Jesus preserves the divine right to determine genuine faith (23-25)

- A. Faith is not the product of sight (23)
- B. Jesus knows the true intent of every heart (24-25)

The authority of Jesus is grounded in the divine attributes of Jesus

- 1. Jesus authority is holy: By His holiness, He defines what is honorable activity in God's house
- 2. Jesus authority is sovereign: He will not yield His authority to the plans of man
- 3. Jesus possesses an omniscient authority . . . *for He Himself knew what was in man* (v25)