

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 2:13-22, MATTHEW 21:12-13

2:13 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.

21:12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. Read the Scriptures printed above. What stands out to you in these passages? What questions do they raise? Feel free to take time to wrestle with these questions.
2. What sorts of “clutter” exist in your soul that Jesus might want to clear out?
3. What sorts of “clutter” exist in your calendar? What has to go in order to make more room for God?
4. Jesus says “my house shall be a house of prayer.” When people look at College Church, what would people say it is a “house of”?
5. If you carried on an ongoing conversation with Jesus, praying without ceasing, what would change in your life?
6. Do you know anyone who “practices the presence of God” throughout the day? What can you learn from them?