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John 2:13-17

13. “The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated *at their tables*.

15. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;

16. and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.”

17. His disciples remembered that it was written, “ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.”

In this passage we find Jesus entering the temple during the Passover celebration. This is the first Passover of His public ministry following Jesus’ baptism by John.

Jesus finds merchants selling oxen, sheep, and doves in the temple area--as well as money changers exchanging foreign currency. The Passover observance had become big business.

According to the Law of Moses, all males twenty years of age and older were required to present themselves at the temple three times a year--the Passover feast being the first occasion for the Jewish calendar. The oxen, sheep, and doves were used

as sacrifices in various purification rites for guilt and sin offerings. The money changers were necessary, as many Jews came from other countries and lands and needed local currency to purchase animals for sacrifice.

Obviously, Jesus was upset by this business being done in the temple. The Scripture records that He made a whip and drove out the livestock along with their owners. Next He poured out the bags of coins collected by the money changers and overturned their tables. (Imagine the scrambling that must have taken place!) Then He turned to those selling doves--the doves were the poor-man's guilt offering at the temple--and said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise."

The temple and the Passover had become big business in Jesus' day. Truly there is nothing new under the sun. Today in America the church is big business. The Lord's church is often used as a center of merchandise doing personal business.

Just as Jesus cleansed the temple of the Old Testament; throwing out the business men profaning His Father's house--when He returns the Scripture records "He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor."

What will you be doing in His church when He returns?
Think about it.