

The Anger of Jesus

John 2:12-16

Introduction: What do the contextual facts tell us about Jesus? (in Capernaum with family; attends Jewish Passover; ministry in Jerusalem...)

1. The Problem of Chronology

A. What exactly is the chronological problem?

B. Possible explanations for the difference between the fourth gospel and the synoptics:

- Two cleansings (at beginning; at the end). This is not likely. One cleansing would have precluded another.
- John is right and synoptics are wrong. Not likely because the placement of the synoptics is more logical.
- An editor mistakenly placed this story at the beginning. Not likely. The editor would have to know about this incident and its placement.
- The likely explanation is that John was more interested in theology than history. The placement of this incident makes an introductory statement about Jesus.

2. The Anger of Jesus in the Passage

A. The target of the anger:

- money changers

- sellers of animals

B. The meaning of his anger:

What does this say about Jesus? Who is Jesus for our times? What is Jesus' real problem? (Mk. 11:17)

3. The Anger of Jesus beyond the Passage

- People are used instead of loved.
- Business is central in churches, but the basics are ignored. (see Matthew 21:13)
- People have to pay for religion. Worship, preaching, and blessings are built on the dollar.