

All Consuming Zeal

2024-09-16 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 2

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus walked into the temple, braided a whip of cords, and drove out the money changers. His disciples remembered the line: zeal for God's house will consume me. Pastor Matt turned that scene into a question that stings a little: is this my body, or is it God's temple? Because if Jesus walked through your life the way he walked through those courts, some things would get driven out. And zeal like his tends to draw opposition.

To get started

- What gets most of your time, energy, and attention in a normal week?

Looking back at the message

The video game story is a gentle example of something harmless consuming a whole day. Use it before the harder examples.

- 1 Pastor Matt told a story about sitting down to play a video game with his brother-in-law and losing twelve hours without noticing. What swallows time like that for you?
- 2 Pastor Matt said you are always offering your body to something: either to God, or to whatever else is eating your time and attention. Does that sound too black and white, or does it fit? Why?
- 3 Jesus once braided a whip and drove the money changers out of the temple. Pastor Matt said God sometimes moves gently in our lives and sometimes drives things out like that. Which have you experienced, and what was it like? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 2:13-22. The temple-of-his-body line at the end is the hinge.

- 4 Read John 2:13-17. What exactly made Jesus angry, and who was being hurt by it?
- 5 The disciples remembered Psalm 69:9. Read it. What does it add to the scene?
- 6 Read verses 18-22. What temple is Jesus actually talking about?
- 7 Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and Romans 12:1. What are these verses asking of us? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He was clear this is about more than physical fitness. Do not let it shrink to that.

- 8 If Jesus walked through your life today, what would he drive out?
- 9 What excuse sounds reasonable when you say it, but is really covering for something that is eating you up?
- 10 Pastor Matt suggested a simple habit: pause ten seconds and ask God what he thinks before you react. Where would that pause change your week?
- 11 What changes when you think of your body as a place where God actually lives? OPTIONAL

The group together

Zeal drew opposition in the text. It still does.

- 12 When have you taken your faith seriously enough that someone pushed back? What happened?
- 13 What does healthy zeal look like, and how is it different from the pushy kind?
- 14 What could this group get genuinely fired up about together?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you are willing to let God drive out this week?

You might pray about

- For honesty about what is consuming us
- For zeal that is for God rather than for ourselves
- For courage when taking faith seriously costs something