

Cleaning House and Nicodemus

By Dave Anderson

John 2:12-25 (verse by verse)

12. **After this he went down to Capernaum** [Cana to Capernaum...about a day's journey...short visit] **he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.**
13. **And the Jews Passover** [pesakh, meaning "skipping or passing over". The feast of the Passover (one of Israel's three great yearly festivals were the Jewish populace made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem... the other two were Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles), commemorating their deliverance from Egypt on the night when God "passed over" the homes of the Israelites during the slaughter of the first born...the 10th plague. When the Angel of Death saw the blood of the Passover Lamb on the door posts of the houses of Israel, he "skipped over" them and did not kill their firstborn. It was celebrated on the 14th of Nisan (March-April) and was followed immediately by the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, which began on the 15th and continued to the 21st [7 days]. A symbol of Passover is matzo or flat bread...hurriedly baked bread made from wheat, barley, spelt, oats or rye. The bread dough is not allowed to rise more than 18-22 minutes before baking.] **was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem** [Jerusalem was south of Capernaum...but was a higher elevation...therefore the expression "up to Jerusalem"],
14. **And found in the temple** ["Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts" Mal.3:1] **those that that sold oxen and sheep and doves,** [This market had been, perhaps by the pool of Bethesada, but was admitted into the temple by the chief priest who would have received rents for the animals just to be available and fees for searching the animals and certifying that they were without blemish] **hand the changers of money sitting:** [The many worshippers that came to Jerusalem for Passover brought a variety of currency and no animals for sacrifice. The outer courts of the temple became a noisy market for changing money and selling animals. Jewish authorities accepted only Hebrew money as acceptable payment. They changed the standard Greek and Roman money for Jewish and Tyrian money. The moneychangers profited greatly from the exchange rates that they charged. In addition to purchasing their sacrifice, they were to pay a half-shekel every year for the service of the temple]
15. **And when he had made a scourge of small cords,** [probably rope that had been used to lead the animals to the temple area] **he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;** [The sheep and oxen could be recovered; the money could be picked up; the doves, had they been released, would not have been recoverable, so Jesus told those who kept the doves to get them out of the temple. Jesus used discretion which governed and guided his zeal.

16. **And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.** [The offense of the money-changers was in their defiling the temple. Jesus did not seek help from others... although he could have. He drove out the animals and over turned the money changers tables and yet...met no resistance from his enemies...either the market-people themselves, the chief priests that gave the market-people their licenses or the temple guard. "But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire {purifies}, and like fullers' soap {cleanses} Malachi 3:2 Malachi was written 450 years before Jesus's birth]
17. **And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.** [Christ was jealous for the holiness of God's house.]
18. **Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?**
19. **Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**
20. **Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?**
21. **But he spake of the temple of his body.**
22. **When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he has said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.**
23. **Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.**
24. **But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,** [Jesus not only knew their names and faces, as we might know someone, but he knew their nature, dispositions, integrity, and true character].
25. **And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.**

Application: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Corinthians 6:19-20.

Questions: How might we defile our bodies?
What can we do to glorify God in our body?

John 3:1-8

1. **There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:**
[Nicodemus was a Pharisee {the word Pharisee means separated...so Pharisee were to be separated for a life of purity...religious leader. Nicodemus was also a member of the Sanhedrin {an assembly of 23 judges biblically required in every city}. He appears three times {John 3:1-21; John 7:45-51 where he states the law concerning the arrest of Jesus ; John 19:39-42 after Jesus' crucifixion where he comes with Joseph of Arimathaea to embalm the body of Jesus. Nicodemus apparently became a secret follower of Christ.}]
2. **The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.** [Nicodemus was a scholar...but he did not come to talk about policy or state-affairs. He came to talk about his own soul.]
3. **Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** [We cannot patch up the old building, but must begin with a new foundation.]
4. **Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**
5. **Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** [Jesus states that two births are needed to enter heaven...the kingdom of God.]
6. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** [Jesus explains verse 5 with verse 6. The two births are the natural birth...flesh and a spiritual birth. The new birth is from God through the Spirit.]
7. **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.** [Marvel not...this is not something to be admired...this is not something for you to attain through your efforts. Jesus may have seen that Nicodemus began to see that being born again was something he could work toward...attain on his own.]
8. **The wind bloweth where it listeth [wills], and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.** ["No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." Jesus. Individuals cannot purpose to be born again...that can be attained].

Application: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

Questions: Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus
Why he come by night?