

## Destroy This Temple & I Will Raise It Up

### Introduction

- ❑ This account occurs early in the ministry of Jesus.
- ❑ He has already been baptized & tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Mt. 3:13-17; 4:1-11).
- ❑ Jesus has already worked His first miracle: changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana (Jn. 2:1-11).
- ❑ The temple in Jerusalem is the center of worship, pride & commercial enterprise for the Jew.
- ❑ Jesus has just driven the merchandizers out of the Temple (Jn. 2:13-17) – *the place of worship is not a place for commerce.*

### I. Destroying The Temple

#### A. The temple in Jerusalem

*The temple authorities confront Jesus for disrupting their commercial enterprise. Jesus' response is profound & shocking to those who pride themselves in the temple (v. 19) They cannot believe He would challenge their demand for a sign with the destruction of the temple (v. 20). They were perverted in their thinking about a place of worship; the true temple was with them (Jn. 4:20f).*

#### B. Christ's physical body

*The Jews misunderstood in this initial confrontation, but 3 years later they would in fact destroy the temple of Christ's body (v. 21; 18:38-19:16). They killed Him because He still threatened the survival of their temple & financial stability.*

**ILL:** Unbelievers resort to slander, persecuting & even killing believers because they have no valid response for the wisdom & power of God. Abraham & enemies, Moses & Pharaoh, Mordecai (Esther) & Haman, Nehemiah & enemies, David & enemies...

**APPL:** The same is true for believers today. God still gives believers profound wisdom & power to accomplish His will. Unbelievers have no valid response or explanation, so they resort to ways intended to prevent us from doing God's will. But they cannot win (Mt. 10:28). Martin Luther – "The body they may kill... His kingdom is forever."

### II. Raising Up The Temple

#### A. The Temple in Jerusalem

*The temple in Jerusalem remained standing for years after Jesus died. Their financial enterprise continued for years after Jesus died. Their irreverent & unacceptable worship continued for years after Jesus died. But in 70 AD the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, not to be raised again. A delay in God carrying out judgment means that He was merciful for a specific reason, but His judgments are true & certain (Heb. 10:30).*

#### B. Christ's physical body

*At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus promised that He would resurrect His dead body (2:19). During His ministry, He promised resurrection (10:17-18). At the end of His ministry He promised resurrection (16:16, 20-22). The first apostles remembered what Jesus promised & we must continue to remember His resurrection (v. 22).*