

Summary of the sermon – January 26th, 2014, 9h30

Reading of the Holy Scriptures: John 2,1-12

The subject of the sermon is: John 2,13-22

Theme of the sermon:

Jesus empties out the temple before the only sacrificial animal: the Lamb of God.

1. A remarkable moment

Many things happened in Jesus' first working week as God's Messiah. On the 7th day was the climax on the wedding at Cana-in-Galilee. Jesus changes water into wine. So He saves the feast. It was the first of the signs by which Jesus revealed his glory.

In the second part of John 2 a sign of Jesus is also the point. Not in a small village in Galilee, but in the city of Jerusalem, in the temple of the Lord God. It's the time of Passover.

Jesus loves his Father's house. Therefore He is very angry seeing the market on the temple place. Also see Malachi 3,1.

2. An actual sign

It's not a pleasant entrance in the temple for Jesus. He sees a market in the temple. With dealers in cattle, sheep and pigeons. Money-changers seated at their tables. It's big business. With a whip of cords Jesus drove all the animals out of the temple.

'Take them out', he said; 'you must not turn my Father's house into a market.'

What Jesus does, is an actual sign. Is was recognized as a prophetic action. An the Jews ask explanation of this sign.

3. A mysterious explanation

We also are interested for the meaning of Jesus' action. We understand that Jesus wants to explain who he is in relation to his Father's house. The disciples remind on the words in Psalm 69,10. 'Zeal for thy house will destroy me.'

That happens to Jesus. His enemies brought him on the cross. He died. For he is the Lamb of God. who takes away the sin of the world. On the empty temple place he stands. He shows his glory as the Son of Man. The Jews don't understand that. But they have to think about the words of Jesus: 'Destroy these temple, and in three days I will raise it again.'

The building of Herod's temple takes already 46 years. How Jesus can raise it in 3 days?

4. A later belief

Jesus was speaking of his own body as the temple. The disciples understand that later. After Jesus' resurrection from the death. Than they remembered the words of Jesus.

John says: '... and they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus has spoken.' Both are word of God.

Do you believe in Jesus? How are we concerned about the holiness of God's house and the service of the Lord? Is God's Messiah Jesus everything to us?