
In His Own Words:
“Jesus: The Party Pooper”
 John 2. 13-22

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“If God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make a final end to violence- that God would not be worthy of worship... If I don’t believe that there is a God who will eventually put all things right, I will take up the sword and will be sucked into the endless vortex of retaliation. Only if I am sure that there’s a God who will right all wrongs and settle all accounts perfectly do I have the power to refrain.” - Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*

“Think how we feel when we see someone we love ravaged by unwise actions or relationships. Do we respond with benign tolerance as we might towards strangers? Far from it . . . Anger isn’t the opposite of love. Hate is, and the final form of hate is indifference . . . God’s wrath is not a cranky explosion, but his settled opposition to the cancer . . . which is eating out the insides of the human race he loves with his whole being.” - Rebecca Manley Pippert

“Our Lord’s injunction to ‘judge not’ cannot be understood as a command to suspend our critical faculties in relation to other people, to turn a blind eye to their faults (pretending not to notice them), to eschew all criticism and to refuse to discern between truth and error, goodness and evil.” - John Stott

“A Prayer of Tears:

Let me enter your heart, O God.
 Let me see what breaks your heart.
 Let my heart be broken, too.

Amen.” - Richard Foster

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- How does this last half of chapter 2 relate to the first half? Which resonates with you more? Which challenges you more? Why?
- How do you reconcile Jesus’ disruptive, disorienting anger on display in this passage with his kindness, love, and compassion? Are they at odds? Can they work together?
- Why is it absolutely necessary to be on the receiving end of Jesus’ zeal before trying to muster up your own zeal in the Christian life?
- What are you welcoming into your life that is crowding out or distracting worship?
- What do you make of Richard Foster’s prayer above? What makes your heart break and rouses your passions? How does it reflect God’s heart?