

A person stands in a dark space, illuminated by a vertical beam of light from above. The person is silhouetted against the light, which creates a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness. The light beam is centered on the left side of the frame, and the person is positioned at the bottom of this beam.

THE GOSPEL OF
JOHN

**The Light Shines
in the Darkness**

CHAPTER 2:13-25
“A Better Temple”

John 2

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple.

John 2

He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. ¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" ¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."



God replaces consumer religion
with a heartfelt zeal



John 2

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.” ¹⁹ “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?”

John 2

²¹ (But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.)

God replaces strict religious practice
with a relationship with Jesus



John 2

²³ Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. ²⁴ But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵ No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

**God replaces self-confidence with
a trust in His grace**



A person stands in a dark space, illuminated by a vertical beam of light that descends from the top of the frame. The person is positioned at the bottom of the beam, looking up. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a large object, with the light creating a strong contrast and highlighting the person's silhouette.

THE GOSPEL OF
JOHN

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in the Darkness**