

Holidays, Holy Days & Encounters with God!

KJV John 2:13-16 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

*16 And said unto them that sold doves, **Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.***

In John's gospel this is the church's **first encounter** with Jesus!

➤ An encounter by definition is an unexpected meeting or confrontation with an adversary!

And what makes it so **powerful** is that it's during **Passover** the **most** important **religious day** of the year for Jews.

One would think Jesus would introduce Himself in a softer gentler way and allow people to warm up to Him!

But Jesus didn't come that way at all—the religious people encountered a **serious Savior!**

It was **Passover** the holiest day of the year, it was a **special day**.

God believes in **special days** He created them and demands that we remember them, honor them and but in the effort to commemorate them.

Special days require special preparation and special attention!

God's special days are called **Holy Days** man calls them holidays!

In fact the word **Holy Day** was changed to *holiday* in an attempt to take the emphasis on God out and to secularize them.

Holy Days mean **consecrated days, days set apart from all other days and made special because they bring attention to something God has done in the earth.**

Holy Days celebrate **encounters with God!** **Who determines Holidays?**

The day of our birth was a special day to our parents, just as the day we graduate, get married or have children—we consider these days special, set apart from all other days.

We celebrate with parties, gifts and special gatherings—all prepared for!

Encounters with God are very special events in people lives; which is one reason **coming to church** should be a **BIG DEAL!**

- The early church would gather and celebrate all God had done throughout the week—saving, healing and blessing people.

As they would testify of the goodness of God and hear The Word God would show up and do wonderful things in their midst.

Think of the **unexpected** blessings God brought into your life!

And think of all the amazing things God did for you while at church worshipping and serving Him!

Why do you think God considers “*One day out of seven Holy?*”

Creation was an amazing, holy and special time for God and man.

A Sabbath is a special day just like **The Day Jesus Christ was born!**

Next Sunday is Christmas we have service because it’s a special day, a day to celebrate Jesus—not stay home and sleep and open presents.

It’s a holy day and because we celebrate Jesus’ birthday we always ask everyone to bring Him a present—a monetary gift!

- Jesus’ first **encounter** with church folk was cleansing the temple!

Because Jesus ministry is about **purification**: cleansing the world of sin.

This is a very special event my brothers and sisters—in fact it’s the most special event in the life of every believer! **Hallelujah!!!**

- Jesus birth was such a Big Event men traveled hundreds of mile to honor Him bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh.

^{KJV} Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

- Jesus birth was such a Big Event angels announced it!

*KJV Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

This is the season we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

In our foundational scripture we see Jesus came to the Temple during Passover—the most holy day of the Jewish people.

The Day when God rescued them from 430 years of Egyptian slavery! 430 years, that's a long time to be in bondage—and to top it off God came down personally and delivered them.

What a day, what a season what a time worthy to be remembered and celebrated!

➤ But somehow they got it twisted and the season lost something!

So Jesus try's to remind them! Jesus **cleanses the temple** twice!

At the beginning of His earthly ministry and at the end of His earthly ministry—He does the exact same thing the exact same way!

In less than 3 years these people went back to living as if Jesus never came to the Temple at all!

The difference between to two is in **Mark 11:17** Jesus sits down and **teaches** the people!

People need to be taught what a **Holy Day** is and how to **prepare and handle** them or else they will treat them like any other day and miss having **encounters** with God!

Sundays, holy days and holidays are special times that we prepare for encounters with special people in our lives—and God is # **1**!

The part of the temple Jesus cleanses was the **outer court**! The Temple had three parts, three being the number of divinity!

Man made in the image and likeness of God is a triune being made of three parts—the outer part is the flesh.

This is the part Jesus symbolically **purified twice**!

The first time Jesus said they made the temple “**A House of Merchandize**”!

The first time the temple was turned into a carnal, secular place of entertainment! **The church had become secular and not spiritual.**

The second time Jesus said the made the temple “***A Den of Thieves***”

The second time Jesus said the temple had become a place of big business. **People come to church rob God and steal from one another.**

We take his love keep it to ourselves and hate on others!

We take His grace and mercy, leave and show unforgiveness to others!

Now we are the church of God—our hearts should be filled with prayer, praise and thanksgiving whenever we come to church!

Then leave ready to deposit God’s love into the lives of everyone we come in contact with!

Everyday should be a **Holiday, Holy Day and an Encounter** with God for somebody who meets you and I!

Everyday should be a **Special Day** for somebody when we wake up!