
Meditation
on John 2:13–22 | “Depths of Love”
”*I Will Raise It Up*”

∴ ZERO ∴

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*“Grace to you and PEACE from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Co 1:3. (NRSV)

∴ Amen.

∴ ONE ∴

‘Depths of Love’—is our current worship series.

‘I Will Raise It Up’—is our theme for today.

Jesus **DRIVING OUT, POURING OUT, OVERTURNING TABLES** is what we have heard...

... written down in the Gospel of John, in only the second chapter.

Before that Jesus had an encounter with John the Baptist, with his first disciples, and six jars for purification water which he turned into wine.

And now this.

“Depths of Love”, really? WHERE IS THE LOVE?

“I Will Raise It Up”, really? So far, it rather looks like THE EVE OF DESTRUCTION.

All this was surely impressive—
but surely no act of making friends.

::: TWO :::

It is only the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. After gathering disciples, after becoming a wine maker, a feast saver Jesus now becomes a temple-table-turner.

He is his Father’s Son. He makes a stand. He’s looking for a sacred place.

The house of his Father is a sacred place, sacred in terms of being close to the father.

In the place close to his Father, the place of holy encounter, the place of worship a call has to be made.

Look closely, listen thoroughly, watch exactly.

The sacrificial animals are driven away—a line is drawn with the traditional practice of sacrificing.

And, by the way, an end is made to the practice of buying and selling sacrifices. And end is made to the practise of needing enough money to be forgiven.

*“Stop making my Father’s house
a marketplace!”*

John 2:16b

What is bought and sold here?
Is it really the animals?
Isn't it in fact redemption—
for those who can afford it?

::: THREE :::

Now, “Depths of Love”, really?
WHERE IS THE LOVE... in *this*?

Now, “I Will Raise It Up”, really?

So far, it *still* looks like THE EVE OF DESTRUCTION.

But... with Jesus temple action something is to change.

We are at the beginning of something new.

We are at the beginning of a new era.

Jesus says:

*Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up.*

John 2:19

They cannot understand it yet, but Jesus speaks of a new, a final sacrifice.

He speaks of a change:

He will become the sacred place, sacred for us, sacred in terms of us being able to come close to the Father.

Jesus becomes our place close to the Father, the place of holy encounter, the place of worship.

∴ **FOUR** ∴

“Depths of Love”, really! *HERE IS THE LOVE!*

“I Will Raise It Up”, really!

This is *not* *THE EVE OF DESTRUCTION.*

Jesus is the one who raises up a new, an ultimate place to be close to, an ultimate way to come to the Father.

In fact, no building needs to be taken down.

In fact, he needs to be raised,

be nailed to the cross.

In fact, he has to die

and be brought to life again,

after three days.

This is the way.

This is the *new* way.

This is God’s *ultimate* way.

∴ **FIVE** ∴

Jesus’ listeners then could not understand his words. How would they.

But those who stayed close to him, even in the darkest hour of his death, and the brightest hour of his resurrection, they found the truth:

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2:22

And this is a message to us.

We stay close to Jesus,
we listen carefully to his words,
we explore him as the one who died for us—
for us so that we understand God's love,
so that we understand:
God gives himself for us,
we praise him as the one who is the first
to gain eternal life,
to lead us to internal life.

Forgiveness is no longer bought and sold.
Redemption is never again
for the ones who can pay for it.
Deliverance is out of God's grace.

The DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE we see in Jesus.
And he IS RAISING UP God's new temple,
a new world,
a place of God's full presence,
the kin-dom of the Heavens,
among us, together with us.

And we raise it up with him, so that those who
are with us, can understand, can learn, can be-
lieve that Jesus is the way.

::: Amen.