

No one can raise anyone from the dead but God. That power is so great, that no one can imitate it, not even Satan! This is the ultimate signature of God to us.

John 2:15-22 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. (17) And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. (18) Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? (19) Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (20) Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? (21) But he spake of the temple of his body. (22) When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Almost everybody knows the Bible story about Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple. He called It His Father's house. It is a story that is told in almost every Sunday School through out the world. But there are two other stories hidden in plain sight in this story. They are the stories of the true meanings of sacrifice and of God's seal of approval or authority.

1) <u>True Sacrifice Always Has A Real Cost Of Some Kind</u>

The Jews were upset that Jesus had broken up their religion for profit scheme. People of that day were required to offer a blood sacrifice for their sin. Rather than carry their sheep, goats, and other types of sacrifice over many miles of rough paths and roads, plus feeding and taking care of them, they would just bring money and exchange that for a sacrificial animal when they arrived at Jerusalem. Now, these money changers were in competition with each other to sell the most animals. The old saying among retailers of our day is "buy low and sell high". It was not much different back then. The money changers bought the cheapest animals that were often very inferior, so that they could sell them to the traveling worshipers and make the most money. The poor worshiper had to often settle for second rate animals to offer to a first rate God. Also, their was little sacrifice for the worshiper of that day, because he got his offering as cheaply as he could. Does this sound like modern day Christianity?

2 Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: *neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing*. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

2) <u>The Resurrection, The Sign Of Heavenly Authority</u>

Now the moneychangers also questioned Jesus as to what authority that He had to drive them from the temple.

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

This was Jesus' answer - He told them it was His right, because He was God's Son:

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I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 1:4