

A scenic view of a stone arch bridge over a river in a forest with autumn foliage. The bridge is made of dark stone and has a decorative metal railing with star-shaped patterns. The water is calm and reflects the bridge and the surrounding trees. The trees have some autumn-colored leaves, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Welcome to

The Bridge

**Belonging, Believing,
Becoming**

Are You a Consumer or a Worshipper?

John 2:13-22

1. Prescribed Worship.

- The reason the law was so exacting about the care of the Passover lamb was so that their worship of God wasn't just a once-a-year thing.
- The first part was bringing a worthy animal from your own flock or herd.

- a. To experience cooperate worship.
 - The reason the temple was there was to serve as a visual representation of the Glory of God.
- b. To pay the temple tax.
- c. Passover is the midpoint of the Jewish Year.
 - Passover served as a midway point to keep people Spiritually on track during the year.

2. The *problem* that drove Jesus into a rage.

- All of this was approved and even managed by the temple *leadership*.
- So some local businessmen, seeing an opportunity, decided to open a few stalls of *acceptable* animals for sale.

**ALL OF THIS WAS DONE
WITH THE PERMISSION
AND SUPERVISION OF
THE PRIESTHOOD.**

- All of this started because the people didn't want the *inconvenience* of proper worship.
- A consumer mentality says I want it *my way*.
- No one really considers that perhaps the priests were under pressure from the people to change things to make it *easier* on them.

- So the temptation to *compromise* a little is huge in today's church-
- What happens is slowly those people go from *worshipping* God, to being *consumers* of a religion.
- But then we will have to face a *whipping, swinging* Jesus, and me in particular.

- It's where it happened that angered Jesus the most- in the Court of the Gentiles.
- So the first thing a person seeking God saw upon entering the temple was people being fleeced for money in the name of their faith.

**“What can I get out of
this with the least
amount of effort or
cost to me?”**

**“How can I use what
God has given me in
time, talent or treasure
to see His Kingdom Come
in my family, my
neighbors, my workplace
or my community?”**