

Temple Holiness 2018-12-09

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore 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.

From private sign of grace to massive public sign of judgment. First of 2 times Jesus cleansed temple - at the beginning and end of His public ministry.

- Reveal: Jesus desires/empowers His church to be holy. John 2:13-14

Temple court where Gentile proselytes worshiped became religious front for sin.

- Sell pre-certified animals...\$4 for \$.05 dove....Food at sport events.
- Change foreign currency into temple currency. Loans at church for money for offering.
 - Attend church for personal/business advantage. Broadcast to raise money.
- Greed was hindering worship (like trying to pray on NYSE trading floor in barnyard) so probably rationalized as useful/loving service.

Many had Supermarket approach to faith: wanted convenience and ALL desires meet.

- Hassle to bring sacrifice: Make relationship with God and worship easy as possible
 - Want others to serve/minister to them....Evident in churches.
- Felt needs, desires, preferences at center, not God....man-centered worship.
 - Preference over substance: Preacher/music/ministries that's _____.
 - LEFC vision: make disciples through Christ-centered worship.

Jesus desires His church to be holy so prostituting the purpose for the temple produced righteous, holy anger and Jesus cleansed the temple (sign). John 2:15-17

- How did one man do this? Their bad conscience/fear, Jesus' majesty/power (like 2nd coming)?

If you can't conceive of a loving Jesus being angry toward unrighteousness, then you've constructed an unbiblical Jesus. Exodus 32:8-10; Psalm 69:9, Romans 11:22,

Revelation 20:15

- Emphasizing love/mercy of God to the neglect of His holiness ends in spiritual laziness, sin and heresy.
 - God is all-loving/patient/merciful so He doesn't care how I live.

- For God to be righteous, He cannot be indifferent to things that dishonor, oppose, and contradict His character/holiness.
 - Heresy: takes away need for cross where God's love/holiness collide.
 - Because Jesus is loving and holy, He will not compromise with sin but mercifully confronts and lovingly cleanses His temple from ALL sin.
 - Christians individually and corporately are the temple of Lord. 1 Peter 4:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 6:16a

As the risen Messiah, Jesus Christ empowers His church to be holy! John 2:18-22, Revelation 21:22, 1 Peter 1:16

- In an attempt to take focus off their guilt/covetousness, they misunderstood Jesus.
 - Assumed about temple: still under construct after 46 yrs.
- Jesus not trying to persuade them to believe in Him, but prophesy they will not believe and will put Him to death.
 - Their actions (crucify) would result in His resurrection and would sweep away their old order (water/temple/Judaism) replace it with new (wine/Jesus Christ/Christianity)
 - Jesus would supplant the temple and become center of true worship, the place of perfect/final/ultimate sacrifice for sin.
- Jesus Christ's Resurrection established and empowered a new temple...sanctuary made without hands, that is holy and pleasing to the Father.
 - Christians, you are holy (set apart ones) so manifest His holiness in your lives....desire, delight in and be holy.