

## Being a Clean Temple of God

John 2: 12 – 24

### 1) Zealous for the house of God (vs.12 – 17)

- The Tabernacle was referred to as the “house of God” (1 Chronicles 6: 48)
- Later on, when the Temple was built it was referred to as “the house of God”
- The place where the men were selling the cattle, sheep and doves and where the money changers were changing money was in the court where the Gentiles come to pray.
- The Temple was a place that was sacred and should have been entered with respect and honour to God
  - It was the place where sacrifices were made thus it was the place of forgiveness and reconciliation with God
  - The people’s attitude to the Temple was an indication of their relationship with God.
  - The fact that they had turned the place of preparing sacrifices into a market was an indication on how they had strayed from their relationship with God.
  - Not only had they strayed from God but they were preventing others from worshipping God – this was taking place in the part of the Temple that was set aside for the Gentiles to worship.
  - They viewed the feasts – in this case the Passover – as an ideal time to make money out of the pilgrims coming from all over to offer sacrifices.
  - <sup>2</sup> Corinth. 2: 17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.
  - <sup>1</sup>TI 3:8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.
  - <sup>1</sup>TI 6:3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup> he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions <sup>5</sup> and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.
- It is not only the issue of financial gain that creeps into our lives and church.
  - Worldliness in general creeps into our lives and subtly takes over without us noticing.
  - <sup>1</sup>JN 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world
  - Worldliness is a dedication to the systems and attitudes of the world rather than to Christ.

- The problem is when we want both – Christ and the world.
  - The merchants in the Temple seemed to care about the Temple sacrifices but their hearts were far from God.
- Jesus was ruthless in the way he dealt with the merchants and money changers
- We need to be ruthless in the way we deal with worldliness in our lives.
  - Jesus looked around the Temple and then through out everything that wasn't supposed to be there
  - We need to have a look at our lives and ruthlessly throw out everything that isn't supposed to be there.
- We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
  - We need to be zealous for the house of God that we adhere to God's precepts and ways
  - We need to be sure not to be a hindrance to others who desire to come to God and to worship God.

## 2) Authority validating zeal for the house of God (vs.18 – 22)

- Instead of recognizing their wrongdoing the Jews rather questioned Jesus' authority for clearing out the Temple.
  - It is easy to react to God's working and cleansing in our lives and question His authority rather than recognize where we are wrong and submit to Him.
  - At a recent pastor's fraternal meeting some pastors were saying how parents reacted negatively when they asked them to discipline their children.
  - Others react negatively when they are told that they need to forgive someone who has hurt them
  - Yet others react when told that they need to deal with their anger problem, etc.
- They wanted a miraculous sign for Him to prove His authority
  - Jesus never uses miracles to prove His authority.
  - He does miracles out of a heart of compassion for those who need it.
  - Many people who see miracles still don't believe in Him
  - <sup>MT 11:20</sup> Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths." If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."
  - The more we see the power of God at work the more accountable we will be to God.
- Rather than appeal to their desire for sensationalism Jesus rather pointed to the cross and His resurrection as His authority
  - The cross of Christ is the foundation of all our spiritual authority

### 3) Being careful who we trust (vs. 23 – 24)

- Jesus, nevertheless did do miracles and people did believe because of what they saw
  - Although Jesus doesn't do miracles for sensationalism purposes He does them and many people do believe because of experiencing the power of God or seeing the power of God.
- Jesus did not entrust Himself to man because He knew what was in them.
  - Sometimes people believe because of what they see or experience but don't change in their hearts.
  - Jesus can see what is the heart and knows the fickleness of man.
  - <sup>MT 7:6</sup> "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.
  
- Can Jesus entrust Himself to you?
- Or have you believed but don't really want to change?
- Are you a clean temple of God that God can trust?