



LESSON 119 MARK 11: 12-14 (Matt 21:9-19)

Matt. 21:9-19 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. 10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? 11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. 12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. 14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. 15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, 16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? 17 And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there. 18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. 19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only,...

Unlike Mark's gospel, Matthew's account places the cleansing of the temple before the fig tree incident, which comes later in Mark 11:12-14. The gospels were not written to establish a chronological order of events, so sometimes we have to look at what is before and after to understand the sequence of events. In reading both accounts, it would seem to me that Jesus would cleanse the temple as the first order of business, it symbolizing the need for cleansing in the hearts of the spiritual leadership, here of the Jews, and later, of the church. **1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God**, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

However, there is just as good a position for those who think that, after Jesus entered Jerusalem and "looked around the temple area, seeing the moneychangers and sellers again, He left, spent the night in Bethany, probably with Lazarus and his family, and then returned to the temple and cleansed it of the riffraff the next morning.

Questions

1. In verse 12, Matthew, writing under the direction of the Holy Spirit, penned "And Jesus went into the temple of God,..." Why was it referred to as the "temple of God?"
2. When Jesus cast the sellers and moneychangers out of the temple, did He do that because He didn't want people to use the temple for worship?
3. Jesus cleaned out the temple twice in the three years of His ministry. The first time was early in His ministry, while this second time was in the week of His death. Compare and contrast the account of the first cleaning out of the temple by Jesus in John 2:13-17. John 2:16 indicates the

vendors were probably used to going through the temple to move their animals in and out.

- a. In John 2:16, what did Jesus say the sellers had made it?
 - b. In Mark 11:13, what was the house of God supposed to be known as in the nations?
 - c. In Mark 11:17, what had the temple become?
4. In Mark 11:14, after the temple is cleansed, what happens?
5. What was the reaction of the religious leaders to the healings and miracles Jesus did in the temple, and the praise He received from the children? (Matt 21:15)

Possible Answers

1. To remind us Whose it was. God was the Initiator, Establisher, and the Owner of the temple. It was His house (v 13). In 2 Samuel 7:12-13, when David desired to build the LORD a house to replace the tabernacle which was essentially a tent, God told him his descendant would build the temple. **"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** This prophecy was fulfilled in David's son, Solomon, and in Jesus, the Son of David, Who built a spiritual house for God His Father. **Eph 2: 11-22 ... remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh...But now in Christ Jesus... you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. 1 Peter 2:5 ... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

The priests of the temple, appointed to take care of it so that it would honor God, were allowing it to be defiled. No doubt, they were even benefitting monetarily from the outrageous revenues of the vendors. This revealed their heart condition toward God.

As an added application of these verses, did you know that your body is the temple of God, and that what you do with it and how you take care of it reflects your heart condition toward God?

1Corinthians 6:19-20 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid... Flee fornication...What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. No. He wasn't eliminating those who came to worship. He was ridding the temple area of the crooks. Jewish men were required to come to Jerusalem three times a year for certain feasts: passover, pentecost and tabernacles. If they lived close enough, they would bring their sacrificial animals with them. If they traveled a long way, they would sell their animals at home, bring the money to Jerusalem, and buy a sacrificial animal there. Moneychangers acted as ruthless bankers, exchanging foreign currency, but at a much lower rate than was proper. Then the greedy sellers of the animals would charge much greater prices for the sacrifice than was honest and fair. The priests knew what was going on and probably got a percentage of the

revenues from these dishonest practices. The temple became a place of robbery.

3 a. A house of merchandise b. A house of prayer c. A den of thieves...remember Jesus always told the truth, without exaggeration. How sad and angry Jesus must have felt to see how a place built to honor and worship His Father was being so desecrated.

You, as the temple of God, are also to be known as a house of prayer, not consumed with worldliness (**1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**) and certainly not involved in thievery or any ungodly practices. **Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.**

People should know they can come to you for prayer and intercession. "Lord, as You dwell in me Your temple, show me what I need to get rid of, what needs to be cleansed, what dishonors You. Teach me to worship You every day of the week, in all I say and do, and make me a house of prayer for all nations, an intercessor, because Your beloved Son, Jesus, is an Intercessor and I want to join Him in His work. (Heb 7:25)

4. Jesus healed people who came to Him.

5. They were displeased. In Mark 11:18, they were very angry about what He had done, primarily the cutting off their money-making schemes, and about what acclaim the people were giving Jesus. Why, even the children were praising Him! Previously, after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the religious leaders had decided Jesus would have to be killed. In fact, they had planned to kill Lazarus also. Read John 11:43-53, 57, 12:9-11. Now the priests and scribes begin to seek the means to kill Jesus without implicating themselves so the people wouldn't turn against them.

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