

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

INTRODUCTION – MT. 21:12-16

- Shortly after Jesus entered Jerusalem, He entered the temple and drove out the money changers and merchants. He rebuked them for misusing the temple.
- Every Jewish household prepared for the Passover by meticulously cleaning their houses. Only Jesus was concerned about the condition of the temple. The temple was a holy place. It symbolized God's presence, His power and protection. It represented God's redemption, covenant and atonement. It demonstrated there's only one God.
- According to Jesus, the temple was not a place for extorting people for personal gain. It was a place where sincere hearts commune with God and express true worship from grateful hearts.
- Today, believers individually and collectively are the temple of God. As with the temple in Jerusalem, it is to be used in the service and praise of God. If it's not, then it needs cleansed.

1.) Our body is a temple. (1 COR. 6:9-20 NLT).

A.) For God to indwell. He is referring to our physical body being God's temple, for His use. It's not to be misused. It's not to be defiled (1 COR. 3:17). Defile means to desecrate something sacred. Defile God's temple and incur God's wrath.

2 CHRON. 6:18 No temple can contain the creator of heaven and earth.

Yet, **2 COR. 6:16-18** says the believer has the indwelling presence of God within.

B.) A temple for devoted service to God. The Jerusalem temple was a place of prayer, sacrifice and worship. Our temple (body and mind) is to be devoted in service to God.

▪ **ROM. 12:1, COL. 3:5-9** Our body is a living sacrifice.

▪ **ROM 12:2, COL. 3:1-2** Our mind is to focus on things above.

C.) A temple that can be abused. The temple in Jerusalem was used as a den for thieves. A place Jesus needed to cleanse.

▪ We can be guilty of setting our minds on earthly things and using our bodies for selfish pleasures.

2.) Cleansing the temple requires the presence and power of Christ. It also requires our cooperation.

A.) Presence: Jesus cleanses the temple by washing us in His blood. **REV. 1:4-5**

B.) Power: **JOHN 15:4-5, EPH. 6:10** Strength to keep the temple cleansed comes from Christ.

C.) Our cooperation. **2 COR. 7:1** We can't sit back and do nothing. We must cleanse ourselves. How? By protecting the windows to the soul. Our cleansing is greatly facilitated by what we allow in our minds. **PHIL. 4:6-8**

CONCLUSION: In what condition is our temple? Is it a place where God can reside? If it needs cleansed, look to Jesus for cleansing and fill it with prayer, power, praise and Godly Virtue.