

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 2:12-25

Lesson #10

Keeping the Temple Holy

09/20/2015

Correcting 3 misconceptions

1. God does not favor the poor but He protects them.
2. God's gifts are given to us but only as a stewardship.
3. Jesus does not take kindly to those who use spiritual gifts for their personal gain.

The Gospel of John Temple Cleansing 2:12-25

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Ministry to the disciples	Ministry to the world of sinners
1-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-21
Signs				Sermons	Sacrifice
Public ministry				Private ministry	Paschal ministry
Galilee & Judea				Jerusalem	
About 3 1/2 years				Only a few days	



Sadducees

- This is the Jewish aristocratic class that were in charge of the **temple, priesthood, and Sanhedrin** as well as relationships with the **Roman government**.
- Although not mentioned by name in this passage, they would have been the **priests responsible** for the temple defilement that Jesus confronts.
- They were notoriously **corrupt, materialistic**, and rejected any notion of resurrection or afterlife.

Jesus' authority is questioned as he was not recognized as a priest. Jesus' reference to his resurrection had to be seen as him taunting the Sadducees.

Four cultural observations

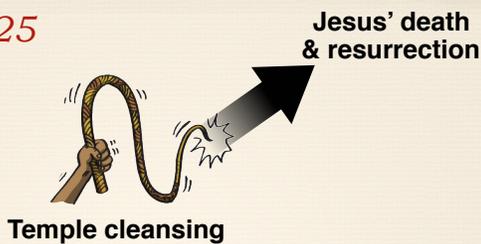
- Every year the Jews would bring to the Temple in Jerusalem an offering.
 - a. Those from **out of town** would buy the offering in Jerusalem when they got there.
 - b. They often came with **foreign currency** that would defile the temple unless exchanged.
- The Sadducees moved this business inside the temple walls so that they could have a **monopoly** on the economic affairs of the Passover week.
- This made the **Court of the Gentiles** virtually impossible to be used for worship by Gentiles.
- This was especially hard on the **poor** who would be paying as much as 20 times what they should.

John 2

“¹² After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His disciples; and there they stayed a few days.¹³ And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. ¹⁵ And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; ¹⁶ and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a house of merchandise.” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “*Zeal for Thy house will consume me.*””

“¹⁸ The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, seeing that You do these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews therefore said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²² When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken. ²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, ²⁵ and because He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for He Himself knew what was in man.”

John 2:12-25



The cleansing of the temple was a sign that one day there would be an ultimate defilement (the crucifixion) but it would be followed by the ultimate sign of Jesus' authority (his resurrection).

Romans 1

“¹ Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴ **who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead**, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,”

John 2:12-25



Dividing the Church

1 Corinthians 3

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man **be careful how he builds** upon it. . . . ¹⁶ **Do you not know that you are a temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for **the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.**”

Application to the Church Body of Christ

- If we behave so as to **damage the Body of Christ**, we will be disciplined as were the money changers.

How do we avoid damaging the church?

- It starts with acknowledge the **holiness of the church**.
- It involves **majoring** on majors and **minoring** on minors - a leader, a doctrine, a denomination, a personal taste, style, or gift.
- Some **indications of trouble** - jealousy & strife, pride & segregation, immaturity & carnality.

"Did you get anything out of that sermon or service?"

A healthy disciple is easily edified

- If the Word of God is opened and the name of Jesus is lifted up and you get nothing, **it says more about you than the setting, sermon, leaders, and company**.
- **Make a commitment** to not leave a meeting of worship without bringing something and taking something away.
- **Pray for a word from the Spirit** to YOU and then LISTEN to what the Spirit says THROUGH the sermon. **Pray for a reminder** of who God is and what He has done and then look for an opportunity to praise and thank Him.

Disrespecting the Poor

1 Corinthians 11

"²⁰ Therefore when you meet together, **it is not to eat the Lord's Supper**, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or **do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing?** What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you."

Application to the Church Respecting the Poor

- The easiest way to damage the Body of Christ is to **marginalize the powerless** that Jesus protected.

How do we avoid marginalize the powerless?

- It starts with our looking at people through **the eyes of Jesus**.
- It involves **resisting the values of this age** - favoring wealth, power, personality, position, fearing those who are different.
- Some **indications of trouble** - little diversity of social friendships, no desire to understand those unlike us.

Defiling the human body

1 Corinthians 6

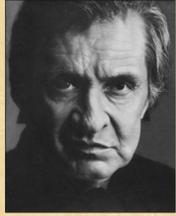
"¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but **I will not be mastered by anything**. ¹³ Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body. . . . ¹⁸ **Flee immorality**. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

Application to the human body

- If we behave so as to **morally** defile our bodies, we will be disciplined as were the money changers.

How do we keep from defile our body?

- It starts with our respecting its **holiness**.
- It involves **giving up the right over our own bodies** - refusing to see its appetites are a stewardship.
- Some **indications of trouble** - addictive behaviors, fornication, gluttony, disrespect for others.



Johnny Cash

“I am two people.
Johnny is a nice guy.
Cash causes all the
trouble. They fight
and the one that I
feed generally wins.”

The point of the temple cleansing

God's temple
serves a spiritual purpose
which must not be hijacked
for a personal agenda.

The relevance for us

Our bodies & the Body
of Christ belong to God
& are our stewardship.

Don't forget

1. God does not favor the poor but He protects them.
2. God's gift's are given to us but only as a stewardship.
3. Jesus does not take kindly to those who use his Father's stuff for their personal gain.