



HARVEST FORT WORTH / EQUIP CLASS

Sunday February 25, 2024

Teacher: Bob Taylor

TITLE: CHRIST CLEARS (CLEANSES) THE TEMPLE

INTRODUCTION: "IT'S TIME FOR HOUSE CLEANING"

IT WILL SOON BE TIME FOR SOME SPRING CLEANING. IT WILL BE TIME TO OPEN THE WINDOWS, LET FRESH AIR IN, AND GET THE DUST AND DIRT FROM THE COLD WEATHER OUT OF YOUR HOUSE.

1. JESUS PERFORMS A MIRACLE IN CANA IN GALILEE AND SOON HE WILL CAUSES A DISTURBANCE IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

John 2:12-22 NLT

John 2:12

12 After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

- Jesus goes to Capernaum for a few days and at least 15 people went with him.

John 2:13

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

- The Jewish Passover was a celebration in remembrance of God passing over the homes that had the blood of a sacrificial animal on the door posts of each home in Egypt.

- Hundreds of thousands of Jews would make their way to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover.

Exodus 12:12-13

12 On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! 13 But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

2. JESUS DEMONSTRATES RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION IN BEHALF OF HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

- **Jesus did not have a Temple Tantrum**

John 2:14-15

14 In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. 15 Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

QUOTE BY PASTOR MARK A. BARBER:

“Each family had to bring a lamb for the Passover meal. This lamb had to be spotless and in good health. As it was difficult to bring a lamb from faraway places, it became convenient to buy one from the priests once they got there. Besides the necessary lamb, the people needed other sacrificial animals for sin and thanksgiving offerings as well. These would include the mentioned turtledoves. These, too, were conveniently for sale. Finally, each male Jew was required to pay the Temple tax of half a shekel. It could not be paid in Roman coin which had depictions of Caesar as a god on it. So, these unclean coins would have to be exchanged for a shekel which was clean. A small copper coin was charged to exchange the money. One could imagine how noisy the outer court of the Temple must have been. One would hear haggling on prices, the clinking of coins, the cooing of the doves, and the bleating of the sheep. The place was a madhouse.”

- Jesus did not use the whip on people but used it to drive the animals out of the Temple into the Temple courtyard.
- He cleaned house from corruption and merchandising in the house of God.
- There were crooked priests refusing perfectly good animals to make money and selling animals they had there to sell. Everyone knew Jesus was right in what he did.
- This cleansing demonstrated that all of God's people should take spiritual things seriously.

3. JESUS SPOKE TO THE JEWISH MERCHANTS VERY DIRECTLY

16 Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" (A house of merchandise.)

- The merchants took what was sacred and turned it into a money making machine. This would be like our "Christmas" season.
- The question for these merchants had changed from, "what can we do for God?" But instead "How can we profit from the things of God?"
- It is Jesus who cleansed the Temple and it is Jesus who cleanses us from our sins for each one of us, as believers are temples of the Holy Spirit.

17 Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."

Psalm 69:9

Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

Jeremiah 7:11

Don't you yourselves admit that this Temple, which bears my name, has become a den of thieves? Surely I see all the evil going on there. I the Lord have spoken!

- During the Old Covenant God dwelt in buildings, under the New Covenant, God dwells in people.

4. JESUS WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

18 But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

5. JESUS BEGINS TO EXPLAIN ABOUT HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

19 "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" 21 But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

- Jesus gave his life for our sins and God raised him from the dead. This is what gave him the authority to be a temple cleanser.
- He won our victory over death, hell and the grave, and he has all authority to clean us up, make us righteous and give us Eternal Life.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THESE VERSES TODAY?

Every person in the world needs the cleansing for sin that only Jesus can accomplish. We humans are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We must be cleansed by the **BLOOD OF THE LAMB!**