

Morning Sermon Outline – September 24, 2017

“The Cleansing of the Temple” John 2:13-22

I. Notice the obvious, Christ’s Zeal –

And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. ¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” (John 2:14-17 NKJ)

1. Note, first, this zeal, this anger is a righteous, sin-less anger –

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, became a man, but not a sinner -

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrew 4:15 NKJ)

- *False teachers call Jesus a sinner, many use this passage*
- *They count any anger, any passion sin*

B. However, God is always righteous in His anger and wrath, even when an ungodly world protests against it –

You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them. (Psalm 21:9 NKJ)

2. Christ’s passion, His zeal here, is FOR SOMETHING, it is for His Father’s house –

... Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” (John 2:16b-17 NKJ)

II. Notice the IMPORTANCE of His Father’s House -

¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” (John 2:17 NKJ)

^{ESV} John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” (John 2:17 ESV)

^{NLT} John 2:17 Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.” (John 2:17 NLT)

- 1. This passion, ate Christ up, consumed Him, was first in His thoughts and heart! Is it the building itself that Christ / God cared for and needed?*

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! (1 Kings 8:27 NKJ)

- A. Did God really dwell in the Temple in the sense that He needed it for shelter? No!*
- B. His dwelling in this house was important for nearness to His people –*

“But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Jeremiah 31:33 NKJ)

Notice, even Israel is called the house of Israel, He would have dwelt in and with them, however they needed cleansing –

“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. ¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:16-18 NKJ)

2. Even at this point the House of God is not really this temple – So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ Then the Jews said, “It has taken 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. (John 2:18-21 NKJ)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)

The Word *made his dwelling among us*. More literally translated, the Greek verb *skēnoō* means that the Word pitched his tabernacle, or lived in his tent, amongst us. ... God has chosen to dwell amongst his people in a yet more personal way, in the Word-become-flesh. D.A. Carson

III. *His passion now is to dwell in us, we are His Temple, we are His people, we are His bride –*

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJ)

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJ)

1. *There is no God dwelling in us, without our being cleansed of our sins –*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

2. *Note, Jesus cleansed the earthly temple both at the beginning and near the end of His earthly ministry –*

Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves.'" ⁴⁷ And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,⁴⁸ and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him. (Luke 19:45-48 NKJ)

Consider the implications:

A. *After Jesus cleansed the Temple the first time, the sinners came back!*

Sin is a great stain, it caused our Lord great PAIN! If we leave off repenting, sin will soon come back AGAIN! If Christ took such great pains to give us victory over sin, should not we take great pains too?

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. ...

⁵ "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—...

"And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire-- (Mark 9:43; 45 & 47 NKJ)

B. *The cleansing is for a great purpose, we are to be His temple, His city, His bride –*

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God."⁴ "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4 NKJ)

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Revelation 19:7-8 NKJ)

C. *We have a hope, we purify ourselves for, we are to be like Him -*

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:1-3 NKJ)

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