

ZEALOUS FOR THE PROPER WORSHIP OF GOD

John 2:13-22

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February 7, 2021

INTRODUCTION: IDOLATRY

God's people always struggle to worship God well.

From the beginning when Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did, God has been concerned with how people approach Him.

Exodus 20:3-11

Deuteronomy 6:13-15

You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the Lord your God who is in the midst of you is a jealous God; so follow Him, or else the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

Israel's constant struggle and frequent downfall was worshipping idols, other gods in place of the living God.

Judges 3:7, 8; Hosea 13; Jeremiah 3:6-10; Isaiah 1:11ff.

Haggai; Malachi (3:1-4)

What we will see in our text today, is that even in Jesus' time, even among religious people, true and proper worship is hard to find.

Proposition: Proper worship of God consumes Jesus so that men's hearts are exposed in how they worship and respond to proper worship.

This truth is developed by three reactions to the scene at the temple mount.

I. JESUS REACTS TO FALSE WORSHIP

- A. HE FOUND WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE TEMPLE
- B. DROVE OUT THE ANIMALS
- C. HE Poured OUT THE COINS
- D. HE OVERTURNED THE TABLES
- E. SPOKE TO THE ONE SELLING DOVES

Malachi 3:1-4

II. FALSE WORSHIPERS REACT TO JESUS

John 3:18, 19

? How do we know?

A. THE JEWS DEMAND A SIGN

John 1:19ff.; 5:12, 6:30

A sign (a miracle) can be helpful in affirming belief, but to demand a sign really exposes your lack of faith.

Matthew 12:38, 39a

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign..."

Beyond that, when there's sin, you don't take time to look into the matter, you don't take it under advisement. You eradicate it.

B. JESUS MAKES A VIRAL STATEMENT

? What is Jesus talking about here?

1. Death And Resurrection
2. Himself As Temple

Exodus 40:34; 2 Chronicles 7:1

The post-exilic prophets all pointed to a time, not when God would fill the temple, but live among them.

Zechariah 2:10

Shout for joy and rejoice, daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the Lord.

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall name Him Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,

1 Peter 2:4, 5

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

John 4:23, 24; Ephesians 2:19-22

C. THE JEWS MOCK JESUS' SIGN

III. THE DISCIPLES REACT TO THE EVENT

A. THE DISCIPLES REMEMBERED PSALM 69

B. THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED GOD'S WORD

C. THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED JESUS' WORD

CONCLUSION: CONSUMED WITH PROPER WORSHIP

? Why is God so consumed with worship?

Characteristics of false worship.

A. CONVENIENCE

Malachi 1:13

B. GREED

Jeremiah 6:13

C. DISTRACTION

D. LIVING AS YOU PLEASE AND CALLING IT RELIGIOUS

APPLICATION

1. Worship God well

Psalm 66:1, 2

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;

Sing the glory of His name;

Make His praise glorious.

2. Realize that true worship centers on Jesus not on material things.

3. Be careful that your thoughts about true worship or Jesus aren't from a place of mocking doubt, but humble devotion to God and His Word.