



Part 3 Intense Anger

In the Bible we see Jesus as gentle and loving. Children, prostitutes, lepers, rich and poor, men and women -- no one is outside his gracious embrace. That's why it comes as a surprise to see his passion demonstrated in anger. He gets angry at one -- and only one -- group: The corruptors of religion. In this amazing event we learn four truths about Jesus' heart:

Jesus will always passionately...

1. Move _____
"When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem." - John 2:13

2. Remove _____
"In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!'" - John 2:14-16

_____ faith leads to...
_____ religion, which leads to...
_____ God, which leads to...
_____ holiness

"And as he taught them, he said, 'Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.'" - Mark 11:17

"Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim: '...all you ...who come through these gates to worship... Reform your ways ... Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!" Really change your ways... and deal with each other justly... But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury... follow other gods... and then come and stand before me in this house... and say, 'We are safe '--safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?'" - Jer. 7:2; 8-11

3. Reveal _____
"...you are making it a den of robbers." Matt. 21:13

4. Heal _____
"The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them." - Matt. 21:14

"I'm afraid that... you may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ." - 2 Cor. 11:3

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"And as he taught them, he said, 'Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.'" - Mark 11:17*

Monday

This week, let's look at the four accounts of the temple cleansing in the four gospels. Today let's start in Matthew 21:12-17. What do you think upset Jesus so much about what he saw in the temple?

If Jesus were to visit TLC, where do you think he might "turn over tables"? How can we guard against this?

What about in your life-- what impure practices are taking place in your body (your temple) that you need to ask Jesus to drive out this week?

Ask God to help you examine yourself honestly today. Ask Him to do the four things we talked about in the message: Move to the core issue; remove barriers to God; reveal your hidden motives; and heal your wounds.

Tuesday

Read the second account of the temple cleansing in Mark 11:12-19. What similar lesson do both the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple teach (Hint: It relates to fulfilling one's God-given purpose)?

In what ways did the Pharisees cover their lack of fruitfulness with fancy foliage?

What do both stories teach about putting first things first?

Mark quotes Jesus' reference to Jeremiah at greater length than any of the other gospels. He emphasizes here that the temple was meant to be a "house of prayer for all nations." The merchants' profiteering took place in the only area where Gentiles could worship. Why do you think this especially angered Jesus?

What does this tell you about his heart?

Jesus is quoting Jeremiah 7:11. Read the whole passage-- Jeremiah 7:1-19. What does this tell you about Jesus' thoughts here-- and later, when he prophesies destruction for the Temple?

Ask God to show you again today where your worship has become mere words and ritual instead of true worship of God. Spend time worshipping Him for His grace today!

Wednesday

Read the third account of the temple cleansing in Luke 19:45-48. In each account we learn something new-- here, what do you learn about what Jesus did "every day in the Temple"?

Why is it important to know that he did this in the temple-- he didn't just get angry?

You may have wondered why Jesus wasn't immediately stopped by the religious leaders when he drove out the moneychangers. What does this passage say to help you understand (Note the difference between the way the "people" responded and the way the temple authorities responded)?

How has Jesus "turned over tables" in your life? What has He been cleaning out recently?

Ask God to show you areas where you are critical but not active and constructive. Ask Him to show you areas where you could help to change our church for the better!

Thursday

Read the fourth account of the temple cleansing in John 2:12-25. What details do you learn here?

The Pharisees demanded to know Jesus' authority. Essentially they were asking, "Who do you think you are?" Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did, rather than just answering their question bluntly?

As one of the sellers, how would you feel about Jesus' actions?

As one of the disciples, how would you feel?

How do these two responses relate to how you sometimes feel now about Jesus?

Thank God that Jesus is living and active in our lives even now! Ask Him to come into your life and cut right to the heart of issues you have been neglecting. Ask Him to purify your faith.

Friday

Look back over your notes and think back on your readings in the four gospels this week. If you had to summarize the lesson of the temple cleansing in one brief sentence, what would it be?

What have you learned that you can apply to your life from this account?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:3. How does this verse relate to the temple cleansing? How do you sometimes complicate faith?

How can the temple cleansing accounts give hope to those who've been victimized by bad religious systems?

Bring to Jesus your heavy burdens right now. Find rest in Him!

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!! Keep asking Jesus to help you keep your faith uncomplicated, uncorrupted, and simple!