

(1) Does it bother you that Jesus got so angry at what he saw in the Temple? How do you reconcile his anger with his love, patience, and heart to forgive? Are these compatible? If not, why not? If they are, explain why. In light of the answer you just gave, in what circumstances do you think your anger might be justified?

(2) What does this story tell us about our Lord's attitude toward those who would exploit spirituality for monetary gain? Have you seen examples of this in today's church world? If so, share your example.

(3) What is the difference, if any, between what the religious leaders were doing in the Temple and the fact that we have a bookstore in our church building where Christian CD's, books, and other items are sold?

(4) In view of what Jesus said to the religious leaders who asked him for a sign, is it ok for Christians today to pray that God would perform a miracle, perhaps a healing? What would make this an illegitimate request, and what would make it a godly one?

(5) Read Matthew 21:12-14 and describe how this shocking contrast in the behavior of Jesus affects you. Does it make sense that in one breath he is angrily denouncing the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders and in the next breath is speaking kindly and compassionately to the sick? How does this portrait of Jesus affect your approach to the subject of healing?