

Sermon Notes for October 9, 2016

The Holiness Of God Sermon Series “Jesus’ Passion In Holiness” John 2:12-22

Introduction

A. Was Jesus RESERVED?

1. As we continue our sermon series on the holiness of God, today, we will look at “another side” of Jesus
 - a. He is often portrayed as “gentle Jesus, meek and mild.”
 - b. He spent time with little children
 - c. He was constantly ministering to the multitudes.
 1. His heart broke as he looked at the needs of the people.
 2. He wept over Jerusalem as He entered the city on Palm Sunday.
2. We may believe that Jesus is “meek and mild”: **UNTIL WE COME TO THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE!**
 - a. For, of all of the thoughts of Jesus that we may have, today’s view of Jesus in our text is quite confusing
 - b. For, instead of Jesus being “meek and mild;” we see an explosion of anger and a person who seems to be “out of control”
 - c. **Robert Setzer – “Just when we think we have Jesus pegged, He goes and pulls a stunt like the cleansing of the Temple. Let’s face it: this unseemly display doesn’t square at all with the popular view of Jesus, as meek and mild and utterly non-threatening. The only mention this scandalous scene got in my Sunday school education was a proof text for not having bake sales in the church.”**
3. Today, we will see the real side of Jesus as we see His passion for the holiness of God

B. Was Jesus a REBEL?

1. While I would **LOVE** to say that Jesus was simply a rebel, He was not.
 - a. A rebel would be defined as wanting to overthrow the status quo –
 1. Barabbas was a Zealot who wanted to overthrow the Roman government.
 2. As was Simon the Zealot, one of Jesus’ disciples.
 - b. What upset Jesus was the misrepresentation of who God was and how He was to be worshipped!
2. Today, we will see how **emotionally as well as physically** passionate Jesus was about the holiness of God
 - a. Jesus was “absolutely intolerant” of a wrong view of God.
 - b. we will see this in His physical reaction in the overturning of the money changers in the Temple

I. Jesus READIES For Worship

A. Jesus Leaves Nazareth.

1. It was time for the Passover in Jerusalem

- a. Jewish customs required that all men over the age of twelve, who lived 20 miles away, were called to travel to Jerusalem to participate in the Passover
 1. There would be months of preparation for this special event that would last 7 days.
 2. Somewhat like our Christmas in America.
 - a. Celebrating as a nation the deliverance of the Israelites from the oppression of Egypt.
 - b. It required an entire month of preparation.
 1. roads were repaired.
 2. bridges were rebuilt.
 3. sepulchers were whitened.
 4. the entire country was alive at Passover.
 - c. Physically remembering the various aspects of that deliverance.
 1. Eating a paschal lamb to remember the lamb that gave its life so that its blood could be placed over the door.
 2. Eating bitter herbs (horseradish) to remember the bitter years in Egypt.
 - b. Most importantly, Passover was a time of purification.
 1. All leaven was to be taken from the homes of all Jews – leaven representing one’s sins.
 2. It was a high and holy moment for all of God’s people.
2. Jesus would travel a short distance from Nazareth to Capernaum before the Passover.

Vs. 12 – “After this He went down to Capernaum with His mother and brothers and His disciples. There they stayed for a few days.”

 - a. Here He, His family and disciples would spend a few days before finishing their journey to Jerusalem.
 - b. Perhaps spending even more time preparing themselves for the Passover.

B. Jesus Traveled To Jerusalem at Passover

Vs. 13 – “When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.”

1. After spending some time in Capernaum, Jesus would travel to Jerusalem for the Passover
2. Each year at Passover, Jerusalem’s population would swell to almost 2 ½ million people.
3. Roads would be crowded, especially the closer you got to Jerusalem and the Temple itself.

II. Jesus REACTS To Wrong Worship.

A. Jesus ENTERS The Temple Area.

1. To understand what happened with Jesus in the Temple, we first must look at how the Temple area was set up for Passover

- a. The entire Temple complex covered almost 30 acres.
- b. According to one commentator;** “The Jewish Temple was a magnificent structure. It soared roughly fifteen stories above the Kidron Valley to the east. It was a huge facility, nearly 500 yards long and 400 yards wide. The outer court of the Temple was nearly the size of 48 College basketball courts.”
- b. The Temple area consisted of four major sections; here listed in area of importance:
 - 1. **The Court of the Priests.**
 - a. Only Priests could participate in this area.
 - b. It consisted of the altar, laver, Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.
 - c. This was the most sacred area of the entire Temple.
 - 2. **The Court of the Israelites.**
 - a. Other Jews were allowed to worship and meet together for joint services on great feast days.
 - b. Only Jews could participate in this area.
 - c. This also was where they brought their sacrifices.
 - 3. **The Court of the Women.**
 - a. This was the only area that Jewish women could worship at the Temple.
 - b. Also services for men and women were held here.
 - 4. **The Court of the Gentiles.**
 - a. There was a particular area for non-Jews.
 - b. Here the Gentiles were invited to find out about Jehovah God.
- 2. It was in the Court of the Gentiles where Jesus cleansed the Temple.

B. Jesus ERUPTS In The Temple Area!

- 1. Jesus **entered** the Temple area
 - a. There was the **selling of sacrificial animals**
 - 1. A practice began of buying sacrificial animals outside of the Temple area.
 - a. The Jews did this to make it “more convenient” for the worshipper to purchase the animals in the Temple area.
 - b. The Priests trained and used “inspectors” who would qualify whether animals could be used in sacrifice;
 - 2. However, the animals in the Temple Court would be much more expensive than those sold outside of the Temple Court.
 - a. Many believe that the Priests were involved in this “system” and received money in the process.
 - b. The animals chosen for sacrifice represented the person’s ability to pay.
 - 1. Sheep and cattle were bought by the more wealthy to sacrifice.
 - 2. While doves were purchased by the poor.

b. There were the money-changers.

1. Jewish law required a Temple tax.
 - a. the Temple tax **HAD** to be a Galilean Tyrian of a half shekel; about 2 days' wages.
 - b. these Jewish coins were only used because there could be no images of pagan rulers on the money used to pay the Temple tax.
 - c. And, anyone who has traveled abroad knows that the exchange rate back to American currency is usually expensive.
2. Here was yet another opportunity to make more money for the money-changers as well the Priests.
3. obviously, it was a "religious racket" led by the religious leaders

c. So, as Jesus entered the sacred Temple that was to be used only for worship, He instead heard and saw:

Vs. 14 - "In the Temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money."

1. He heard the loud sound of merchandizing.
2. He saw the bartering of exchange rates and the swapping of coins.
3. and, He heard and smelled the animals in the Temple area.
4. to Jesus, it looked and sounded like an absolute circus!

2. Jesus **exploded** in the Temple area.

Vs. 15 - "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."

a. Jesus reacted **PHYSICALLY**

1. Jesus was so upset that **He made a whip to drive the animals out**

Vs. 15a - "So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the Temple area, both sheep and cattle;"

- a. The Greek word for whip refers to "rushes"; a cord of ropes; a group of plants.
- b. Jesus gathered in His hand whatever He could grab to make this whip
- c. And He took the whip and hit the backside of the cattle and sheep, thus causing a stampede.
 1. The word for "drove" is to cast out with a notion of violence.
 2. To expel a person.
 3. To bid one depart in a stern voice.
 4. To compel one to depart with haste with a force you cannot resist.

2. Jesus was so upset that **He created chaos**

Vs. 15b - "He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables."

- a. after driving the animals out, Jesus physically turned

over the tables of the money changers.

1. greek: to turn upside down.
2. to grab one side of a table and flip it over!
3. money was flying everywhere.

b. SO, PICTURE THIS:

1. Sheep and cattle were sent on a stampede.
2. and, WHILE the animals were stampeding, Jesus was turning over tables of money.
3. **AND JESUS DID THIS OVER ACRES AND ACRES OF THE TEMPLE!**

b. Jesus reacted **VERBALLY**.

Vs. 16 – “To those who sold doves He said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’”

1. While all the animals were stampeding, Jesus screamed out at the people. **Vs. 16a – “Get these out of here!”**

a. **JESUS ACTUALLY COMMANDED THAT EVERYONE LEAVE THE TEMPLE AREA.**

1. The Greek says:
 - a. get up; elevate yourself; lift yourself up.
 - b. carry these things out.
2. The greek tense is in the imperative – a command.

b. Jesus was obviously greatly upset

2. and, then, He screamed: **Vs.16b – “How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”**

a. **THEN, WE HEAR WHY JESUS WAS SO UPSET**

1. The actual translation should read:
 - a. “Do not be the authors or originators of such a situation.”
 - b. **“DO NOT CAUSE THIS TO HAPPEN!”**
2. ultimately, Jesus was saying: **“DO NOT TURN MY FATHER’S HOUSE INTO AN EMPORIUM!”**

- a. the greek word is emporion
- b. the word not: an absolute negative
- c. Jesus was **ADAMANT** about what He was saying!

- b. what caused Jesus to get so angry was that the Jewish leaders had allowed the holy Temple of God to be turned into a flea market!

III. Jesus REDIRECTS To Right Worship.

A. The Disciples REACT.

Vs. 17 – “His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

1. Jesus’ disciples were absolutely amazed at what their Master was doing
 - a. they had never seen “this side” of Jesus

- b. they must have thought; “Why is He so upset? For the disciples had seen this happen in the Temple all of their lives.”
- 2. but then, His disciples recalled a verse from **Psalms 69:9** – **“Zeal for your house will consume me.”**
 - a. **“Zeal”**
 - 1. definition
 - a. fierceness of indignation.
 - b. defense
 - c. fervency
 - d. JEALOUSY
 - 2. application
 - a. Jesus was fiercely jealous for the appropriate use of the Temple.
 - b. He was intense about it.
 - b. **“will consume”**
 - 1. definition
 - a. KJV – to be eaten up with
 - b. to devour
 - c. to utterly consume
 - 2. application
 - a. Jesus was “eaten up” with His Father’s house.
 - b. it consumed him.
 - 1. focused
 - 2. preoccupied
 - 3. obsessed
- 3. Jesus’ disciples personally witnessed His passion and commitment to the holiness of God and how it had been desecrated by the religious leaders

B. The Jews REQUIRE.

Vs. 18 – “Then the Jews demanded of him, **‘What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’**”

- 1. Because they were being challenged, the Jewish leaders believed that they had the right to question Jesus’ authority about what He had just done in the Temple
 - a. After all, the Jewish leaders obviously had no problem with what was going on.
 - b. So they said:
 - 1. WHO ARE YOU?
 - 2. IF YOU ARE SOMEBODY SPECIAL, SHOW US A SIGN TO PROVE IT!
- 2. **IF YOU HAVE AUTHORITY, “SHOW US” THAT AUTHORITY SO THAT WE CAN SEE IT!**

C. Jesus REVEALS.

- 1. Jesus then responded to the religious leaders with a cryptic response
 - Vs. 19 – “Jesus answered them, **‘Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’**”
 - a. by saying this to the religious leaders, Jesus defined the true meaning of the Temple’s sacrificial system.
 - 1. He spoke of **Himself** when He said, “Destroy **THIS TEMPLE**

- and I will raise it in three days.”
2. Obviously Jesus was speaking of His own death and resurrection.
- b. However, the Jews had no clue what Jesus was talking about.
 1. They simply looked at Herod’s physical Temple that was still under construction and that had been worked on for 46 years
 2. All that the Jews saw was an itinerant carpenter; who said that He could rebuild the Temple in three days.
2. So . . . what was Jesus saying by His cleansing of the Temple? AND WHY WAS HE SO UPSET?
 - a. **FIRST** of all, it “got all over Him” what the Temple had become.
 1. The Temple was created by God Himself, created to be a place of worship
 - a. to be “a picture” of what needed to happen to pay for the sins of man
 - b. until the payment of the Messiah, animals would be sacrificed to represent that the Messiah’s blood would one day be shed to pay for the sins of Israel
 - c. so, Jesus saw that the physical illustration of Jesus’ death had become a money-making enterprise for the religious leaders and the businessmen!
 2. **WHAT THE TEMPLE HAD BECOME WAS NOT GOD’S ORIGINAL INTENTION!**
 - b. **SECOND, THE TEMPLE WAS A PLACE THAT REPRESENTED GOD’S HOLINESS.**
 1. Not only did Jesus see the “merchandizing of God.”
 2. He saw cheating, graft, and collusion at the same time.
 3. Those who came to the Temple were basically taught by the religious leaders: As long as “I go through the motions, pay my tax and kill my animal, I have worshipped.”
 4. if there was anything that Jesus hated while He was on this earth, it was hypocrisy
 - a. **Matthew 23:27-28** – “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, **you hypocrites!** You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. **In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.**”
 - b. to Jesus, the Temple had “become; instead of a place of worship of God’s holiness to being a picture of hypocrisy: **AND JESUS HATED HYPOCRISY!**

IV. Jesus **REVIEWS** Our Worship.

A. “WHICH TEMPLE” Is Jesus Most Concerned About?

1. please realize that after Jesus’ death and resurrection, there was no longer a need for a physical Temple.

- a. because when Jesus was crucified, the veil of the Temple was torn, saying that there was no more barrier and no more need for a physical Temple for Jesus had fulfilled the reason the Temple had been built.
 - b. because of Jesus' death and resurrection **THERE WAS NO MORE NEED FOR ANIMALS TO BE SACRIFICED.**
 - c. **THE WAY TO GOD WAS OPEN!**
 - d. In **70 A.D.**, due to the failed effort of the Zealots to overthrow Rome, the Temple was actually torn down by the Romans.
2. But, there **STILL** remains "a temple" over which Jesus is still **VERY, VERY JEALOUS.**
- a. Verse 15, the word for Temple is the Greek words **hieron.**
Vs. 15a– "So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the Temple (**hieron**) area, both sheep and cattle""
 1. The greek word in this text refers to the actual Temple that was in Jerusalem.
 2. The external, physical Temple.
 - b. **HOWEVER**, in **verse 19**, when Jesus says, "Destroy **this Temple**, (**naos**) and I will raise it again in three days."
 1. Jesus used a **DIFFERENT** Greek word; **naos.**
 - a. This is the Greek word that speaks of the "inner sanctuary of the Temple" – the Holy of Holies – where God, the Shekinah glory, resided.
 - b. The all-important place for the Spirit of God.
 2. **I Corinthians 3:16** – "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple (**naos**) and that God's Spirit lives in you?"
 - a. **DO YOU SEE IT?**
 - b. Jesus was saying that, before His death and resurrection, the literal, physical Temple (**hieron**) was the literal place where God's Spirit resided.
 1. here, the Shekinah glory resided
 2. here, the spirit and power of God lived.
 - c. **HOWEVER**, after the finished work of Jesus on the cross, **EACH BELIEVER "BECAME" THAT TEMPLE (naos).**
 - d. **THAT IS AN AMAZING STATEMENT!**
 1. "That power, the Shekinah glory that only rested in the Holy of Holies, or the Ark of the Covenant
 2. now, because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, now resides in the heart of the believer!

B. "YOUR TEMPLE" Is Jesus' Biggest Concern.

1. Jesus' zeal and passion about the purity of the physical Temple in Jerusalem is the same zeal, the same passion and the same **JEALOUSY** that Jesus has for "**YOUR PERSONAL TEMPLE!**"

2. So . . . imagine each and every day that Jesus “enters” your personal Temple – **WHAT WILL HE SEE? WHAT WILL HE HEAR? WHAT WILL HE DO?**
 - a. **Will He enter a temple that is pure?**
 1. that truly **REPRESENTS** His Heavenly Father on this earth.
 2. that is **HOLY**
 - b. Or, will He take up a whip of cords because your life is so full of:
 1. stuff?
 2. materialism?
 3. money?
 4. and things that get in His way?
 5. **Carl Walsh** wrote an intriguing book entitled **Early Christians of the Twenty-First Century**,:

“Millions of Christians live in a sentimental haze of vague piety, with soft organ music trembling in the lovely light from stained glass windows. Their religion is a pleasant thing of emotional quivers, divorced from the will, divorced from the intellect and demanding little except lip service to a few harmless platitudes. I suspect that Satan has called off his attempt to convert people to agnosticism. After all, if a man travels far enough away from Christianity, he is liable to see it in perspective and decided that it is true. **It is much safer, from Satan’s point of view, to vaccinate a man with a mild case of Christianity so as to protect him from the real disease.**”
3. **JESUS HAD THE SAME PASSION FOR GOD’S HOLINESS IN THE PHYSICAL TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AS HE HAS FOR THE TEMPLE IN YOUR HEART!**
4. Hear the Apostle Paul’s challenge to believers:

I Corinthians 6:19-20 – “Do you not know that your body is a Temple (**naos**) of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

1. How do you typically picture Jesus and His personality?
2. In this instance of cleansing the Temple, did Jesus “lose” His temper?
3. Discuss the scene as Jesus dealt with the situation in the Temple. (Try to picture in your mind the chaos.)
4. Why was Jesus so upset with all the animals and money-changers in the Temple area?
5. How would you define God’s Temple today? (i.e. Where is it located?) What does Paul mean in **I Corinthians 6:19** when he says we, as believers, **are** the Temple of the Holy Spirit?
6. What condition is your own “spiritual Temple” in? Would Jesus ever become that angry concerning the condition of your Temple?