

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

INTRODUCTION

- I. This lesson is about the “cleansing of the temple” as discussed in the New Testament.
 - A. The setting is the Jewish Passover.
 1. It began in Exodus 12, when Israel was preparing to leave Egypt. Exo. 12:(1-13) 14-17
 2. The Passover was one of the 3 annual feasts of the Old Testament.
 - B. The feast was a commemoration (of their deliverance from bondage) and typical of the future Lamb of God to save from the bondage of sin.
 1. Attendance was required of all men.
 2. Jesus attended—at least from age 12. Luke 2:41-42; cf John 5:1; 6:4; 11:55
 - C. Twice, Jesus cleansed the temple—on His first and last visits during His ministry. John 2:13-17; Matt. 21:12-13; cf Psa. 69:9
- II. Now, the “Cleansing of the Temple.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the CONDITION OF THE TEMPLE. Jn. 2:13-14

- A. the Jews had 3 temples through the years.
 1. Solomon’s temple—from about 1000 B.C. to 586 B.C.
 2. Zerubbabel’s temple—from about 516 B.C. to 16 B.C.
 3. Herod’s temple—from 16 B.C. to 70 A.D.
- B. The outer court was for the Gentiles, where desecration could and sometimes took place.
 1. Here was a carnival atmosphere, where buying and selling was taking place.
 2. Here were animals brought en masse to sell to the worshipers for their sacrifices.
 - a. This made it easier for worshipers, rather than having to bring their sacrifices from afar.
 - b. This was a case of money making and easy religion.

II. 2nd, the CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE. Jn. 2:15-17

- A. Jesus did not like the commercial atmosphere.
 1. He expelled all the traders and their merchandise.
 2. These were strong actions of righteous indignation.
 3. This stirred the memory of the disciples. v. 17
- B. The temple didn’t STAY clean, as Jesus had to cleanse it again at a later time. Matt. 21:12-13
- C. Today, God’s temple (the church) needs to be kept clean.
 1. The church needs to be kept clean from sinful doctrines and practices. 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:7,13; Acts 15:1-14; 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 4:1-4
 - a. The scripture foretold a great apostasy of the church. 1 Tim. 4:1-3
 - b. There eventually had to be a “cleansing” or restoring (bringing back to the original) of the church as it was originally intended to be.
 2. The bodies of Christians need to be kept pure as well. Matt. 5:8; Mark 7:20-23; 1 Cor. 6:15-20; Phil. 4:7-8; cf John 2:21
 - a. Human beings often harm their bodies through the use of poisons in tobacco, illegal drugs and alcohol.
 - b. God’s people should abstain from such harmful products. Eph. 5:11; 1 Pet. 2:11
- D. It took ZEAL by Jesus to accomplish this task. John 2:17; Psa.69:9
 1. Christ’s zeal continued till it caused Him to be killed.
 2. WE need to be more zealous in God’s work of cleansing the world of sin. Matt. 6:33; Acts 4:18; 5:25-29; ;17:1-6, 15; 1 Cor. 15:58; Tit. 2:13-14

III. 3rd, the CONVERSATION WITH THE JEWS.

- A. The Jews asked for a “sign” of His authority and power. John 2:18
- B. Jesus gave a sign relating to the “temple”. vs. 19-21; cf Matt. 12:39-40; Rom. 1:4
 - 1. They scoffed at Jesus’ answer. John 2:20
 - 2. It was later remembered. Matt. 26:61; 27:40; John 2:22

IV. 4th, the CONSEQUENTIAL RESULTS OF THE CLEANSING.

- A. Some believed. John 2:23
- B. Jesus did not take their superficial faith too seriously. vs. 24-25

CONCLUSION

- I. Christ, who cleansed the temple can cleanse our lives with His blood. Matt. 26:28; Rev. 1:5
 - A. This cleansing takes place when one obeys Christ in faith, repentance and baptism in water for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38
 - B. When the saved drift away from Christ, and back into sin, another cleansing has to take place. Acts 8:22

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