

“A Lion in the Temple!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. At Passover time the Jews would for 1 month carefully *repair roads, rebuild bridges, & white wash tombs*. Another part was to have **no leaven** in the house (*chametz*), so they'd sweep their house clean (& in Jewish Quarter even **streets**).
1. I watched this preparation a few trips back in Jerusalem: We were in the **Jewish Quarter**, standing out in front of a shop called **Shorashim** (Judaica Art Gallery, & Souvenirs). We stood watching a **water truck** & the **man w/hose** wash down side walk. The Jewish shop owner said watch this, & he threw a chunk of bread out in front of him. He quickly washed it away.
 2. This is where we got our term **Spring Cleaning** from this Passover event.
 3. They'd even make sure they were **ceremonially clean**.
 - a) They just **forgot to clean** 1 thing...**THE TEMPLE!!!**
 - b) That's like having guests over, & **cleaning** every room,...except the **living room!**
 4. **Q:** This morning many of you showered, shaved, dressed up,...**but** what's going on **Inside?** (In your Temple/body?)

II. **A LION IN THE TEMPLE!**

- A. **THE FATHER'S HOUSE!** (13-17)
- B. **TO FATHER'S HOUSE!** (13)
- C. All 4 gospels tell this *Temple Cleansing Story*.
- D. There was **2 temple cleanings** in Jesus ministry:
 1. The other 3 accounts tell of the one at the **end** of His ministry.
 2. This one at the **beginning** of Jesus ministry.
 - a) Judgment **begins** in the house of God!
- E. Interesting this is a **sign** of the **Messiah's coming!**
 1. Mal.3:1 says, **Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, Says the LORD of hosts.**
- F. **A MERCHANDISING HOUSE!** (14)
- G. **2 Problems:**
 1. **Selling of Animals!**

- a) **Problem:** Everyone needed an animal for sacrifice to come & worship God. It was supposed to be w/o spot or blemish (no junk).
- b) **Solution:** To save them an 80 mile trip home for another animal they could purchase an *unblemished, unspotted* animal.
- c) **Abuse:** *They ripped them off, this was highway robbery!*
 - (1) This also made it **easy** for the people to just come to the market place & purchase one, instead of bring one all the way from home.
 - (2) Boy, the hassles of raising it yourself. **What if it cuts itself under a fence?**
 - (3) Nah, for a few shekels just *drive through* & we'll sell you a **shiny sheep**, a **beautiful bull**, a **dazzling dove**, or an **awesome oxen!**
- d) This was "*Worship made easy*" at its finest!
 - (1) "Drive up, grab a sacrifice, do some worship, we'll get you home before **the game!**" (oops, today's Super Bowl Sunday!)
- e) **Q:** Does Christianity have to be **easy** for you? Are you being **carried along** by your spouse, or friend? Do you take **responsibility** for your own relationship? **What if serving the Lord becomes hard?**
- f) Be careful of "drive through religion", "worship made easy!"

2. Money Exchanging!

- a) Not only was there the *selling of animals*, but the *money exchanging*.
- b) **Problem:** Only a *Temple ½ Shekel* was accepted at the Temple(tax).
 - (1) Roman & Greek coin was not accepted.
- c) **Solution:** Money was exchanged right there at the temple.
- d) **Abuse:** Exchange wasn't the problem. **The RATE was!** {sometimes up to 50% above the face value of the coin being exchanged}
 - (1) Like the "**foreign currency exchange**" right in the **airport**. You exchange \$ for a fee, & if you have any **left over** they...get you again!
 - (2) They were using God, religion, & worship as a means for **personal gain!**
 - (3) Thanks for not doing **your business** here...that's not why assemble!
- e) Remember **God, worship, & religion**, are not a means to an end (**no marketing Jesus; no using God for your advantage**). **God is the end...enjoy Him** today!

H. A CLEAN HOUSE! (15)

- l. **The whip begins to fly!** (can you picture Jesus rolling up His sleeves?)
 - 1. Guys like this passage (manicured Jesus vs. Masculine Jesus) *Lamb-o!*

2. Is.52:10 **The LORD has made bare His holy arm** In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.
3. “*Lil Jesus Meek & Mild*” turns into “*Big Jesus tweaked & riled*”!
 - a) I don’t mean that disrespectfully. **He was angry!** (anger under control of course)
{meek = power under control!}
 - b) Those who **only** see Jesus as meek & mild, **only** see part.
 - (1) (Hughes) “The **Jesus** they preach is an **idol drained of His deity**, a good-natured god, whose great aim is to let us off the hook.”
 - c) **Q: Remember these events?**
 - (1) Mrk 3:5 **And when He had looked around at them with anger**, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts.
 - (2) Mt.16:23 **Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an **offense** to Me, for you are **not mindful** of the things of God, but the things of men.
 - (3) Mt.23:27,33 **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but **inside** are **full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness...** **Serpents, brood of vipers!** How can you escape the **condemnation of hell?**
 - d) When Jesus **cracked the whip**...**He was as fully Godlike as when** He stood on the Mnt of Transfiguration, **or** when He was hanging on the cross at Calvary.

J. **THE FATHER’S HOUSE!** (16,17)

K. Here, Jesus acknowledged this as **His Fathers house**. Toward the end of His ministry he addresses it as “**your house**”. [Mt.23:38 “**See! Your house is left to you desolate;**”]

L. Here it was a “**house of merchandise**”, later it will be “**den of thieves.**”

1. **Outward reform w/o inward renewal is a temporary thing.**

M. **Why was Jesus so mad?**

1. It was directed at the **irreverence** of the Jews toward the Father.

N. **What bugs you enough to “eat you up?”**

1. Look what consumes Jesus...a love for His Fathers house.

2. **What are you zealous for?** Everybody is **consumed** by something?

a) **Some are consumed w/alcohol**; They think they’re consuming **it** but it’s consuming **them**

b) **Others are consumed w/sex**; It occupies their mind non-stop, it becomes slavery.

c) **Some are consumed w/ambition**; *or loneliness, or hurting, or relationships.*

O. Like Jesus, may zeal for **Gods house** consume you; & zeal for **God’s Word**; & zeal for **God’s heart** for the hurting: {**to do rt & justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sac** Prv12:3}

1. **Like human trafficking** (\$32 billion yr. business); **Children exploited in sex trade every year** (2 million); **Children soldiers** (300,000; 50 countries recruit children under 18; young as age 7).

P. **THE SON'S HOUSE!** (18-22)

- Q. (18) **What sign** - Their concern wasn't the moral issue of it, **but rather** on what grounds Jesus took it upon Himself to rebuke them.

R. (19) **Ok, we know you're a carpenter...but 3 days?**

1. He not only prophesies his resurrection, but He gives its timing (3 days), & says that **He** will do it. [J.W. Verse, **how can a man raise Himself?**]
 - a) **Father** raised Jesus (Rom10:9); **H.S.** Raise Jesus (Rom.8:11); Proves trinity.

S. **Here you want a sign, I'll give you one, in the Res!**

1. It gives me every right to clean this house...“this is **My Fathers house**”.
 - a) **The greater than the Temple is here!** (Mt.12:6)
 - b) Jesus the perfect prototype of a human Temple!

- T. (20) **46 years** – Herod started in 20bc. Been working on for 46 yrs (26ad). It was going to take another 37 years to complete (63 ad). Then was destroyed 7 yrs later, in 70ad!

1. **So this is 26ad, & not 30ad?** - The **Anno Domini** dating system was devised in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus[Ex-zig-U-is] (Dennis the Little/Short, meaning humble; was a sixth century monk born in Scythia Minor), who used it to compute the date of the Christian **Easter festival**. **But Dionysius made a mistake in his calculations. In Matthew Jesus is said to have been born while Herod was still King (2:1). That would translate into 4 b.c.**

U. The Jews missed the **symbolic** for the **literal**.

1. **They will again with:** the new birth; the living water; the eating of flesh & drinking of blood!
2. The word is **like** a safe that the best thief cannot crack. **But ask for the combo from the owner & even a child can turn the tumblers!** {(rt)Repent (left)Believe (rt)Receive}

V. **Everyone's body is a temple unto something!**

1. Some people like to use their body as a shrine **unto themselves!**
2. Some are **taverns & pubs** serving the *wrong spirits*.
3. Others are **restaurants** whose God is their bellies.
4. Many, their shrine is a **gymnasium** or a **sports arena**.
5. Some bodies are **brothels** where sex is god!

6. Maybe yours is a **bank**, a **playhouse**, a **recreational vehicle**, or a **library**.
- W. We (bel.'s) are the Temple of God! **There is a Divine occupant inside!**
1. As one of God's temples, **be a place of worship today!**
- X. Upon coming to Christ, His sole purpose is to **tear down** whatever shrine & temple you've erected, & **build** His temple in you to this end...**that** you'd be God's Holy dwelling place!
- Y. Lord, thanks for Your correcting whip! Psalm 119:67,71.
1. **Before I was afflicted** I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
 2. **It is good for me that I have been afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes.
- Z. Lord, **drive** what needs to be **driven out** of my life; **pour out** what needs to be **poured out** of my life; **overturn** what needs to be **overturn** in my life; **take away** what needs to be **take away** from my life.
- AA. **OUR HOUSE!** (23-25)
- BB. The attribute of knowing a person's innermost heart, state, & character is an attribute of God!
1. Jer.17:10 **I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind**, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
- CC. Note: His omniscience was **universal** "He knew **all men**"; & **individual** "He knew **what was in men**."
1. Pretty good for a man who never went out of a *100 mile x 30 mile* perimeter!
- DD. **He did not commit Himself to them – Has He to you?**
1. He obviously **doesn't** to everybody...And they are professing believers!!!
 2. We talk about knowing Him...BUT, **does He know you?**
 - a) Mt.7:21-23 **Not everyone who says** to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven...I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!
 - (1) He doesn't say, **you never knew me** (cuz they thought they did); He says, "**I never knew you!**"
 - (2) He can't be fooled by **insincere faith** or **insufficient faith!**
- EE. The Lord is still into **Temple Cleansin & Heart Discernin!**
1. Jesus is never into **Self-improvement**, but **Christ-Replacement!**
 2. Jesus **entered** the Temple; **light in, darkness out.**
 3. Same when you let Him **enter you**; **light in, darkness out.**