

JESUS, KING OVER HIS TEMPLE

MAT. 21:12-17

¹²Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³"It is written," He said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'" ¹⁴The blind and the lame came to Him at the temple, and He healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things He did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. ¹⁶"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise'?" ¹⁷And He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.
Mat. 21:12-17

I. Jesus is King Over His Temple

- **The temple was the _____ of God** – It was where:
 - 1) God's presence was manifested – though not limited by only the temple's location, God inhabited the Holy of Holies.
 - 2) God was worshipped sacrificially.
 - 3) God's written word was taught.
 - 4) People's lives were touched by God.
- **Jesus exercised His power as King over the _____** – By using His authority over the temple, He "pulled rank" over the priestly and Phariseic power structure. By quoting Isaiah 56:7, "My house", Jesus called God's house His house and proclaimed to be God. When Jesus was in the temple, God's presence was there in a unique way. By Jesus calling it His house, He had the authority to determine and dictate the affairs of the temple. Tradition did not dictate, the priests and Pharisees did not dictate, the people did not dictate; only Jesus could dictate.
- **Today's temple is the _____ – the people of God** – No longer is the temple a building; it is the people of God. It is the Church – the people in whom God's presence resides in a special way; connecting with and worshipping God occurs, people are touched by God in ministry and healing, and people grow in God's word. Paul tells us that "**You yourselves are God's temple, and God's Spirit lives in you**" (I Cor. 3:16). Jesus, as King, is Lord over His temple (the Church) today. He determines and dictates the affairs of His temple today. Will you let Jesus enter His temple?

II. Jesus, as King, is Against Personal Profiteering

- **Jesus drove out all who were _____ and selling** – This occurred in the Court of the Gentiles, the court reserved for non-Jews to come and learn about the One True God. Their seeking was drowned out by the noise of commercialism: and their presence crowded out by the many tables and stalls. It wasn't a very spiritual atmosphere.
 - The services of the merchants were necessary, as the purchase of temple sacrifice,

and money exchange for the temple tax were needed. The problem was the improper location (taking the place of worship and teaching), price gouging (the personal profiteering), and the kick-backs going to the priests. The people were being ripped off in God's work for selfish gain.

- **Today, Jesus as King demands we do not use His _____ as a place of personal profiteering** – Sometimes, this passage is applied to mean that items such as books or CD's should not be sold in churches. Such sales are not wrong if the primary purpose is to further God's kingdom, and not personal profit. What is wrong is the manipulation of God's people primarily for personal profit; be it merchandise sales or developing of "friendships" for personal gain (such as business contacts). The question to ask is, "Are my actions in the church with people primarily for personal profit, or to glorify Christ and further God's kingdom?"
- **Jesus demonstrated His anger at injustice through His _____** – Though the Bible does not specifically state Jesus was angry, He certainly didn't overturn tables and drive out the personal profiteers with a smile! Jesus did anger, and it was righteous; it was because of injustice and sin against God. But anger at wrong is worthless if it is not followed by God-controlled action to rectify the wrong.

III. Jesus, as King, is For Prayer and Praise

- **Our temple is to be a house of _____** – Quoting Isaiah 56:7, Jesus gave the priority of His house: prayer. This is more than the prayer that we commonly practice today; it is connecting to God on a personal level, spending time with Him and carrying on a two-way communication.
- **Our temple is to be a place of _____** – The children responded to Jesus with shouts of praise. When we truly have experienced God, our spontaneous response will be praise. The shouts represent loud and joyful exuberance. It was the children who led out in this praise, because children aren't concerned with what others think is respectful and proper and "toned-down" because of it. Do you praise God with a child-like attitude of shouts of spontaneous and joyful praise?

IV. Jesus, as King, Offers His Power for His People

- **The blind came to Jesus, and He _____ them** – Those in need came to Jesus for His healing. Jesus was willing, but those in need had to come to Him – had to make the effort to come and ask for His help. There were probably many who didn't go to the temple that day to seek God's help for their troubles, maybe because of pride, unbelief, or seeking earthly answers. They missed out!
- **Today, Jesus is ready to help us with our _____** – Though He doesn't always work the way He did in the temple, He's ready to heal His way, according to His will. But we need to realize our need, and come to Him in faith.

Answers: I. House; temple; Church. II. Buying; temple; action. III. Prayer; praise. IV. Healed; needs.