

Matthew 21:12-13 Jesus Purgings the Temple

Introduction: Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He rode right up to the temple and went in. Mark tells us that He looked around, left, and went back to Bethany to spend the night. The next morning He went back and purged the temple of many of the things which displeased Him.

I. What Jesus saw inside the temple.

- A. As He entered from the outside He entered the Court of the Gentiles.
- B. There He found a hubbub of activity.
 - 1. This was the Passover season.
 - 2. Jerusalem was a city of about 600,000 people, but during the Passover it would swell to over three million.
 - 3. Those who came were to offer a sacrificial lamb – the best of their flock, a lamb without spot and blemish.
 - 4. The poor could offer two doves or two pigeons instead.
 - 5. The people found it easier to buy than to bring.
 - 6. Temple officials were glad to oblige at high prices, of course.
 - 7. The Court of the Gentiles was filled with pens of animals for sale.
(Not without spot and blemish.)
 - 8. Also the Mosaic law required each man to pay a temple tax of a half shekel in Hebrew money for upkeep of the temple.
 - 9. Money tables were set up for converting Greek and Roman coins to the Hebrew half shekel.
 - 10. It was a regular supermarket of supplies needed for temple sacrifices.
- C. There was little or no room for people to gather to worship, and there was too much noise and activity for worship.

II. What Jesus did about what He saw.

- A. He drove out those who were buying and selling, verse 12.
(I assume that He drove the animals out also.)
- B. He overturned the money tables (money and all) and drove out the money changers.
- C. He overturned the booths where doves were sold.
- D. He quoted from Jeremiah 7:11 accusing them of making the house of prayer into a den of thieves, verse 13.
 - 1. Jesus considered their high prices thievery.
 - 2. He claimed they had polluted His house.
- E. He thus disrupted the temple activity and purged out that which displeased Him.
- F. This was the second time He has done this.
 - 1. In the early part of His ministry He had done the same thing.
(This was received as a claim to be a prophet of God.)
 - 2. On this occasion it was clearly a claim to be the Messiah – King.

III. Question??

- A. What if Jesus were to walk in today into one of His church services and correct the things which displease Him?
 - 1. He would not be pleased with sermons that are designed more to entertain than to preach the word of God.
 - 2. He would not be pleased with any false doctrine or misinterpretation of the Bible.
 - 3. He would not be pleased with professional religionists who are not called of God to preach.

4. He would not be pleased with those who use religion just to get rich. (You talk about making merchandise of religion, they do and they sell their merchandise for millions.)
 5. I am afraid that every church service would have something which displeases the Lord.
 6. Some would have to close altogether.
- B. What if Jesus were to come back to the world and purge out of this world everything that displeases Him? (Liquor, dope, adultery, thievery, hatred, murder, etc.)

IV. Answer.

- A. He is going to come back one of these days.
- B. When He does He will purge the world of that which displeases Him.
1. He is going to drive false religion out of the world. (Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Taoism, and Shintoism – all non Christian religions – cults)
 2. He is going to purge out a lot of so-called Christian leaders.
(He will get rid of them and their heresies.)

Conclusion:

1. Is the Lord pleased with your salvation?
2. Is He pleased with your church affiliation?
3. Is He pleased with your daily attitude and conduct and activity?

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