

John 2:12-17
October 19,1986
Rome Ga.
March 30, 2014

Subject: Christ's purging of the temple.

Theme: A person with TRUE ZEAL for God will not tolerate interference with the worship of God.

Proposition: Are you ZEALOUS for God. One test is whether or not you are willing to bear reproach for the name and service of God.

READ JOHN 2:12-17 (the 1st purging of the temple)v. 12. " Jesus' move to Capernaum on the Northwest shore of the sea of Galilee for a few days marks an interlude in his life." Capernaum became His home base and from this point onward He seemed to be alienated from his family. Cf. Math. 4:13 mark 1:21 and 2;1. bkc.

V. 13. Read.

The PASSOVER and Feast of Unleavened Bread (or feast of the Passover - names were used interchangeably). "The most important of the three great annual festivals of Israel." (*Unger's*)

v. 14. In the "temple court" NIV. As you entered the temple area you passed first through the portico or porch that surrounded it. Then you would be in the area known as the court of the gentiles. This court surrounded the area that contained the sacred enclosure that housed the Holy of Holies; the Holy place; and the court of Israel. Also in the sacred enclosure were the court of the priests and the treasury or women's court. But it was in the COURT of THE GENTILES that the drama in Jn. 2 unfolded.

The pilgrims coming to Jerusalem had to buy animals for the sacrifices that were to be made. They also had to exchange their foreign money for coinage that was acceptable for the temple tax. (Tyrian Coinage) More as a convenience than an attempt at disrespect for the house of God, vendors and money changers had set up shop in the Court of The Gentiles.

It was **probably an innocent move at first**. But as with so many other intrusions of the world into the worship of God, it soon got to the point where the activities were having a negative effect on the worship of those that they were supposed to be aiding.

v. 15-16 Jesus made a whip of small cords and he drove them **ALL** out. It is not stated that he actually hit anyone or any animal. The reason for special mention of the dove sellers is that you can't drive a dove out of a cage with a whip. He wasn't trying to put anyone out of business. In fact their services were very much needed. But this was not the proper place for their activities. There was no resistance to the actions of Jesus. Perhaps they were so taken by surprise that there was no time to stop the stampede or perhaps their hearts were already convicted by their actions. The end result was that those things which had no place in the temple of God were removed (**Albeit, temporarily. There is another purging of the temple 3 years later that led to Jesus' death**).

MAKE NOT MINE FATHER'S HOUSE A HOUSE OF MERCHANDISE. Jesus frequently referred to God as "MY FATHER."

It is only through Jesus that the Father can be known.

*******Math 11:27 " No one knows the father except the son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him"**

Mat 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

II. TRUE GODLY ZEAL CANNOT BE CONDONED BY THE RELIGIOUS OF THE WORLD

As long as Paul went the way of Religion he was free from persecution.

But when his ZEAL turned to being **TRUE GODLY ZEAL**- he was persecuted on every hand. Cf. **II Cor. 11:24-26**.

2Co 11:24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2Co 11:26 in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

AND GUESS WHAT. YOU CAN EXPECT THE SAME IF YOU WILL BECOME COMMITTED TO LIVING YOUR LIFE WITH ZEAL FOR GOD!!!!

John 14:18-19*****

BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS ALONG WITH THE BAD.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Joh 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

Luke 6:22-23*****

Luk 6:22 **Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake.**

Luk 6:23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

DID NOT USE III. WHEN PREACHED IN ROME! NOR DID I USE ILLUS. P.5 , also – did not use this point on 3/30/2014. Ran out of time. Will use on April 6, 2014 along with Communion at Grace.

III. TRUE GODLY ZEAL CANNOT BE CONCEALED FROM THOSE SEEKING RELIGION IN THE WORLD

IT STANDS OUT IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO ALL OF MAN'S EFFORTS TO REACH UP TO GOD. (BUT THOSE THAT TRULY KNOW GOD, KNOW THAT IT IS HIM REACHING DOWN TO US.)

See **Psalm 69:5-9**. It was evident to all who were around the Psalmist. that's the thing about TRUE ZEAL; you can't hide it!

Psa 69:5 O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

Psa 69:6 Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

Psa 69:7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.

Psa 69:8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;

Psa 69:9 **Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

Those who have TRUE ZEAL for God always stand out in a Crowd

MOSES - Exodus 32:15-18 and 19-20. YOU CAN BE USED TO TURN GOD'S PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.

PHINEAS - in another crowd Numbers 25:(6-9) 11-13

Num 25:6 And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

Num 25:7 Now when **Phinehas** the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose from among the congregation and **took a javelin in his hand;**

Num 25:8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. **So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.**

Num 25:11 "**Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.**

YOU CAN ENJOY TRUE PEACE WITH GOD WHEN YOU SERVE HIM WITH ZEAL

EZRA - Ezra 9:1-4 and 10:1-5 "he was so grieved by the sins of the Israelites and so ZEALOUS for God's cause that he tore his clothes, pulled hair from his head and beard, threw himself to the ground, and wept and prayed before the house of God-- because of his **ZEAL** --- Israel repented!

YOU TO CAN BE USED TO BRING MEN TO REPENTANCE

ISAIAH - In another multitude - Isaiah 6:1-4 and 8. here am I

in the midst of the Myriad of ministering spirits Isaiah asked to be used of God! Not awed by others but overcome with Zeal. YOU CAN BE USED TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN THE MIGHTY HOSTS OF HEAVEN

Not all ZEAL reveals itself in the exact same way.

Moses DEALT with a NATION AS ONE.

Phineas DEALT WITH ONE in a nation.

Ezra ACTED AS ONE in a nation.

And **Isaiah** RESPONDED AS ONE who was willing to go to his nation..

BUT TRUE GODLY ZEAL IS ALWAYS REVEALED AND NEVER CONCEALED!

It begets repentance and repentance begets REVIVAL.

BUT AS WITH MOSES AND PHINEAS AND EZRA AND ISAIAH IT MUST BEGIN IN THE HEART OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

"...JESUS went up to Jerusalem; and found in the temple..." ... people, things and activities which were not evil in themselves BUT which had no place in the TEMPLE OF GOD.

Do you have a ZEAR for GOD today. Is it the type of ZEAR that Moses had when he confronted the nation or the type that Phineas had when he slew the adulterer or that of Ezra as he humbled himself before God Almighty in the sight of the nation or LIKE JESUS when he purged the TEMPLE.

You may not have the ear of the nation as did Moses

OR the conscience of a nation as did Phineas

OR the eye of the nation as did Ezra

BUT IF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD THEN HE HAS GIVEN YOU THE OVERSIGHT OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN THIS AGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

IF YOU WANT A TEMPLE TO CLEANSE--LOOK IN THE MIRROR.! 1 COR.3:16 AND 6:19.

(I heard a Christian comedian the other day talking about the fact that our bodies are the temple of God in this age. 'In that case' he said, "I am a mega-church"

The Jews that Jesus dealt with had turned the temple of God into a profitable venture. They had commercialized the feasts of God and the celebrations of His Greatness with the making of a fast buck. What had started out good had gone bad and needed to change.

Perhaps today we are even more guilty. We have replaced the oxen sheep and doves with chocolate rabbits and rednosed reindeer and painted eggs.

There may not be any money changers at the doors to our churches but I am sure that some of them will let you charge your tithe and offering.

The motives of those who had begun to sell at the temple were originally good.

BUT, This Was The Only Part Of The Temple That The Gentile Ever Saw!!!

Likewise in the churches today. Many times all that the world sees are our outward Christmas wrapping and not the inner workings of God in our

DAILY LIVES.

These men had to wait for the Lord to come and Clean up their act

Will the church do likewise today?

WELL, I CAN'T CLEAN UP THE CHURCHES ACT. WHY NOT? YOU ARE THE CHURCH!.

EXHIBIT A LITTLE ZEAR FOR THE LORD AND TAKE A LITTLE REPROACH FOR HIS NAME AND YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT WHAT GOD CAN BEGIN TO DO IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST.

Illustration for v. 17 DB March 20, 1983:

"The 17th century English pastor Richard Baxter said he preached with great intensity because he saw himself as a dying man ministering to dying people. He always spoke as if he were preaching his last sermon and as if his listeners were hearing their last message. And what a schedule he maintained for 50 years! On each Monday and Tuesday he spent 7 hours instructing the children of his parish, not omitting even one. On Wednesday he went from house to house to make sure that the material needs of the widows, the aged, and the infirm were met. During the rest of the week he prepared his sermons and wrote books-- a total of 160 volumes. As a result of his ministry the town of Kidderminster was transformed. It had been a place of sexual immorality and other vices, but it became a village in which almost every household honored God, read the Bible, and prayed. Baxter's consuming zeal had paid off."