
Revelation Requires a Response

MATTHEW 21:12-17

Lean In

1. When you see something wrong, are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting?

Look Down

Read Matthew 21:12-17

2. What upset Jesus so much about what he saw in the temple? Why would Jesus consider buying and selling in the Court of the Gentiles a sacrilege that profaned the Temple? (See Ex 19:6; Is 60:3 for the role Israel was supposed to have towards gentiles.) Although the merchants once performed a useful service for out-of-towners, how had it become corrupted?
3. Jesus often used Stringing Pearls to get his point across.¹ What was Jesus trying to communicate to the religious leaders when he quoted:
 - a. Zach 9:9
 - b. Psalms 118:26
 - c. Isaiah 56:4-12
 - d. Jeremiah 7:1-15
 - e. Psalms 8:1-2
4. In the Jeremiah 7:1-15, the priests and the people's offenses against God and His Sanctuary caused Him to withdraw His protection of the Sanctuary at Shiloh. How does Jesus use the Jeremiah passage as a warning for the present generation of religious authorities? (See 1 Sam 4:3-4, 10-11; Ps 78:56-61, 68; Jer 7:12, 14; 26:6, 9.)
5. In this passage, which groups of people did and did not recognize the significance of Jesus? How do you explain that? What was the response of each groups? Why were the religious leaders angry with Jesus (v.15)?

Look Out

6. Share one area where the universal church needs to be cleansed. Spend some time in prayer for the church.

Look In

7. Jesus had cleansed the temple before (Jn 2:13-17). In both cases, we see Jesus' anger for their misuse of the temple. If Jesus were to visit The Peoples Church today:
 - a. Where would he begin "turning tables"?
 - b. How about your temple, is it being properly used? Is your body and mind "a place of prayer", one that brings glory to God? Since you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, what "robbers" do you think Jesus wants to drive out? Remember "*God exposes our sins, not to shame us, but to set us free.*"

¹ "Stringing Pearls is a phrase used to describe the method many Bible teachers/Rabbis used to get their point across to their students and increase the students' knowledge of the Bible. The teacher would use parts of verses but intentionally leave off the other part, forcing the student to go back and look at the verse to see what was meant by the statement. Or, they would string together parts of several verses to get one major point across <https://www.liveasif.org/lists/view.cgi?article=7938>

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8. Unlike the religious leaders, how can you guard your heart and mind so that you can respond appropriately to Jesus' revelation of Himself?