

CLEANING GOD'S HOUSE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. **TEXT:** *“And he found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and he made a scourge of cords, and cast all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen and overthrew their tables; and to them that sold the doves he said, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise.”* (vs. 24-16).
- B. **THE SETTING:**
1. Jesus had come to Jerusalem at the beginning of His public ministry.
 2. What He found in the Temple was an indication of what He would find among the Jews.
- C. THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE. (I Kings 6).
1. It is hard to imagine the glory and beauty of the Temple.
 2. Everything in it was over laid with pure gold.
 3. No way we could evaluate even the physical value of the Temple.
 4. Can you imagine how it must have felt just to enter such a place?
- D. THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (I Kings 8).
1. *“But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded! Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee this day; that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof thou hast said, My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place.”* vs. 27-29.
 2. Picture the temple then,-what it must have looked like when Jesus came.
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CLEANSSED TWICE

- A. TWO OCCASIONS WHEN JESUS CLEANSSED THE TEMPLE.
1. At the beginning of His ministry. (John 2).
 2. At the end of His ministry. (Matt. 21:12ff; Mark 11:15; Luke 19:44-45).
- B. ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS... at Beginning and End of His ministry?
1. Possible - for emphasis.
 2. To show the need for respect for God.
 3. Knew what was to come...How Has God’s House Been Treated Over The Years.
 4. Does the church, God’s temple today need to be cleansed?
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WHY

- A. Why would man “dirty” or “abuse” God’s Temple? Several possible reasons
1. GREED: Man sees in religion a way to prosper. Take advantage of needs and feelings of others. (This is what the Jews were doing).
 - A. Some have started their own religion.
 - B. Others heap upon themselves titles and honors.
 2. LACK OF RESPECT FOR GOD...LACK OF FEAR!
 - a. “Make my Father’s house a house of merchandise”
 - b. Serve the god of this world.
 3. IGNORANCE.
 - a. Acts 17. No excuse.
 - b. Do not recognize that which soils God’s House. (Sin is no longer called sin).
 4. SELF PLEASING.
 - a. Place what “I want” above what God says.
 - b. Whether it is financial or personal power the end is the same.
- B. DO NOT CONSIDER OR RECOGNIZE IT AS GOD’S TEMPLE.
1. It had become “their temple”, not God’s Temple.
 2. Lack of respect for authority!
 - a. Did not accept God’s Word.
 - b. Made Their Own Rules....Laws....Creeds.
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THE CHURCH

- A. *“Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? if any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye.”* (I Cor. 3:16,17).
1. Called both the Temple and Kingdom of God.
 2. Use of the terms draws from Old Testament.
 3. The church today.
 - a. So many man made, man named and man organized.
 - b. Treat it as if were their own.
- B. We Considered A Moment Ago The Beauty And The Cost Of The Temple Built By Solomon.
1. Jesus promised to build His (Matt. 16:18) Planned from beginning.
 2. The Cost. The Blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).

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C. Can You Imagine Man Defiling God's Temple Today?

1. We noted earlier how man defiled God's Temple then.
2. The reasons. Are about the same today.
 - a. Greed.
 - b. Ignorance
 - c. Lack of respect and fear of God.
 - d. Self pleasing.

D. Man Does Not Consider The Church as God's...BUT AS THEIR OWN!

1. To build it, control it, use it as they please.
 2. It has become Man Serving INSTEAD OF God Pleasing!
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OUR BODY

A. *"Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God/ and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price; glorify God therefore in your body." (I Cor. 6:19,20).*

1. A sense in which our body is the temple of God.
 - a. Church is the Temple of God.
 - b. We as individuals make up the church.
2. Keep your body pure.

B. WHAT DEFILES MAN...WHAT MUST BE CLEANSED?

1. SIN. (Rom. 3:23, all sin; Rom. 6:23, wages of sin is death).
2. Sin, and those who practice sin cannot enter or inherit the kingdom of God. (I Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:21).

C. JESUS CLEANSED THE TEMPLE.

1. How does He clean it (us) today?
 - a. Acts 2:38; 22:16. "Wash away thy sins"
 - b. Rev. 1:5, "washed us from our sins"
 - c. Rev. 7:14, ".....they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
 - d. READ...I Cor. 6:9-11.
 2. Keep it clean. I John 1:9.
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CONCLUSION

A. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR.

B. HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO..

1. Be Cleansed By The Blood of Jesus.

2. Come Back To Him for Cleansing and to stand Right in Sight of God
