

“The Temple”

Mark 11:11-21

Jesus is the *“Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb that was slain”* (Revelation 5)

In Jesus we find infinite majesty and complete _____

1. Opening the Temple

Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He said, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’ (Mark 11:15-17)

When you stepped inside the temple door, the first area you got to was the court of the Gentiles--the *ethne* or “nations.”

- This was the only part of the temple where non-Jews were _____
- Josephus records that in Passover week one year, 255,000 lambs were bought, sold and sacrificed in the temple courts. Can you imagine the smell of animals and how loud it was?

And this was the place where the Gentiles were supposed to find God through quiet reflection and _____.

Jesus was overturning the _____ system of the temple and opening the way into the presence of God for EVERYONE!!! (Tim Keller, *King’s Cross*, 159)

2. Clearing the Temple**A. Forcefully Clearing the Temple of _____ and Noise!**

“Jesus made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” (John 2:13-16)

For the convenience of the pilgrims who traveled to Jerusalem during the Jewish holidays, the cattlemen and moneychangers had set up _____ in the Court of the Gentiles.

- By overturning the tables of the moneychangers and driving out the sheep and cattle with a whip, Jesus was directly challenging the _____ of the high priest.

Mark 11: 28 *“By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”*

Jesus was disrupting the entire _____ establishment!

That’s why the religious leaders hated him and wanted to kill him! (Mark 11:18)

Jesus’ authority came from _____! He repeatedly called the temple, *“My house”*
He cleans out all that would interfere with _____ and worship!

B. Jesus was also clearing the temple of False Religion

Why did Jesus _____ the fig tree?

Jesus uses the fig tree as a visual aid, a parable against _____ religiosity.

From a _____ this tree looked healthy because the leaves had emerged, but up close they realized it had no _____. The tree was a perfect metaphor for Israel-- God's people bearing no fruit!

The temple was religiously very _____ (like many churches) but contained no spirituality

- **Nobody was actually praying!**
- *"These people honor me with their lips but their _____ are far from me"* (Mark 7:6)
- Later that day, Jesus would clear the temple of all the fruitless activity.
- He took the private lesson of the fig tree and made it into a public spectacle.

3. The New Temple (John 2:18-21)

18 The Jewish leaders ask: What _____ can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this _____, and I will raise it again in three days."

20 They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his _____. (John 2:18-21)

The _____ temple was destroyed in 70AD just as Jesus predicted in Mark 13:2 *"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

Your _____ is now the Temple of the Lord!

1 Corinthians 6 says,

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (v.19-20)

This is in the context of Paul exhorting the Corinthians to honor God with their bodies!

The body is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Do you not know that your bodies are _____ of Christ himself? (1 Cor. 6:13b-15)

When God dwells in you, He _____ house!

He _____ sinners into saints!

How do you know if God the Holy Spirit dwells in you?

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Do you _____ the fruit of the Spirit or are you like that fig tree?

Jesus said, *"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire"* (Matthew 7:19)