

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE



John 2 V 12 - 22

Jesus Clears the Temple

12 After this He went down to Capernaum with His mother and brothers and His disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So He made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves He said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father's house into a market!"

17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house

will consume Me."

18 Then the Jews demanded of Him, "What miraculous sign can You show us to prove Your authority to do all this?"

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

20 The Jews 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 body. 22 After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

What Jesus knew

Do you remember what the "Passover" means? We talked about it in the previous issue. Jesus went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. What an amazing sight He saw in the temple! It did not look and sound like a place to worship God or a place to get right with God. It was like a busy market place! God's presence was far away. Jesus was very angry.

It was true that the people did need to buy animals to use as sacrifices to

God. But the merchants were really cheating the people by charging high prices. And they were selling the animals right in the temple! No wonder Jesus drove them all out of the temple! It is recorded in Mark 11 v 17 that He said, "***Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'***"

Jesus told the Jewish leaders that His right to cleanse the temple

would be proved when they would destroy the temple. He, Jesus, would raise it back up in three days! They were astonished because they did not know that Jesus was talking about His own body. Jesus knew that these Jewish leaders would crucify Him. He also knew that three days after they crucified Him, He would raise His own body from the dead.

Jesus Body was God's Temple

Years before, the beautiful temple Solomon built had been "filled with the glory of the LORD." But because the nation of Israel had served false gods, the glory of the LORD departed from the temple and it was destroyed. Later the temple was built again by those who wanted to turn back to God. God said at that time, "***... the desired of all nations (Messiah) will come and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD Almighty.***" (Haggai 2 v 7)

Now here was Jesus, coming into the temple to cleanse it! He was, even claiming that His own body was the temple of God!

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (Colossians 2 v 9)

"... He appeared in a body ..." (1 Timothy 3 v 16)

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call Him Immanuel" - which means, "God with

us." (Matthew 1 v 23)

"None of the rulers of this age understood it for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Corinthians 2 v 8) Remember how Jesus began to manifest His glory in John 2 v 11? The Jewish leaders did not know that the Lord of glory was among them, living in Jesus' body and had every right to cleanse His temple!

Where is God's Temple Today?



lives then we are joined to Him and should be faithful to Him. God has every right to cleanse His temple. He has every right to cleanse areas of our lives which are

not pleasing to Him. Let us always yield to His cleansing. He cleanses us through His Word.

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 2 v 16)

Jesus lives in every person who has truly received Him, through the Holy Spirit, into his heart! *Our bodies are His temple!* What an awesome thought! ***"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 honour God with your body."*** (1 Corinthians 6 v 19, 20)

How important it is for us to live holy lives! We should never commit sin with our bodies because if we have received Christ into our

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word." (Psalm 119 v 9)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1 v 9)

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, His Son purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1 v 7)

Not only does God make each individual Christian His temple but also all Christians together are called the "body of Christ." ***"so in Christ we who are many form one***

body ..." (Romans 12 v 5a). ***"And He is the head of the body, the church"*** (Colossians 1 v 18a)

"...with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." (Ephesians 2 v 20b - 22). How precious is each person in whom God lives! We must be sure to treat other Christians with great tenderness and love. In the same way that we treat them, we are really treating Christ.

Let us say with Paul, ***"... now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."*** (Philippians 1 v 20b)

Let us be sure our body-temples are places of prayer where we talk with God each day and are aware of His presence. Never let them become a "den of robbers" where the cares of pleasures of this life dim the glory of God. **LW**