

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 10/23/2011

Title: "Jesus Cleanses the Temple"

Text: John 2:13-22
Preacher: Zach Nielsen

What gets Jesus really fired up? The obstruction of true worship.

1. Jesus has the authority to assault our obstructed worship.

- "The obstruction of true worship that is taking place at the temple! This is the place where God would symbolically meet with his people. And this is why Jesus came. His name is, 'Immanuel, God with us.' It's no wonder that this scene really fired Jesus up. The mission of the temple and the mission of Jesus are the same: Come and meet with God. So, Jesus walks out, finds some leather straps, and sits down and (we can imagine) starts to braid them together, and with each braid gets more and more righteously angry at what is taking place in the temple. He finishes that final braid and then unleashes his controlled and righteous fury on those who would use God as a means of convenience and profit."
- Why does Jesus have the authority to confront distorted temple worship? Because Jesus is the temple (v19)! He is the presence of God. Why did Jesus drive out the animals? It's possible that he was making a statement about his own coming sacrificial death as the final Passover Lamb. Jesus can confront distorted temple worship, because Jesus fulfills the temple and the sacrifices that took place there.

2. Jesus' resurrection shows that he has ultimate authority.

- The religious leaders ask Jesus for a sign and Jesus speaks about his coming death and resurrection.
- "Muhammad is dead, Buddha is dead, Marx is dead, Confucius is dead, Steve Jobs is dead, Joseph Smith is dead. Any person under the sun who we want to put our hope in other than Jesus is dead or is going to die. But there is One who they quite literally can't keep down. They tried. But there was nothing they could do. The belief in this risen savior fueled the most explosive movement that the world has ever seen. It shouldn't have happened. It should have been squashed by the Romans. They knew he was the real deal. They laid it all on the line, most of them their very lives, believing and proclaiming that this Jesus is Lord of all and he is worthy to forsake all and follow. He is worth it and his resurrection shows. Do you believe in this resurrection? Does the reality of Jesus' resurrection from the dead cause you to ascribe ultimate authority to King Jesus over every aspect of your life?"

Conclusion:

- "The righteous wrath that he poured out on those people that day would soon be poured out for them on himself in their place. The whip that he used to call his people to repentance, they would use it on him. And instead of him driving animals out they would drive him out like an animal, not just from the temple, but the city itself. He wouldn't just be driven into the streets, but into the outer darkness to the place of death. And the irony here is that this death that he would bear would be the ultimate means of forgiveness and grace that idolatrous, obstructed hearts needed then and that we need right now. It would be the means by which those who embraced an obstructed view of God could repent and be made right with God."

Sample Questions:

- What was the significance of the temple in God's plan of redemption? What ultimately happened there? How would you explain the existence of the temple in the Bible's story to someone new to the Bible?
- What gives Jesus the unique right to confront distorted temple worship?
- What is the possible significance of Jesus driving out the animals from the temple?
- What is the ultimate sign of Jesus' authority? How does this set Jesus from every other religious leader and Christianity apart from every religion?
- What are your motives for going to church? For prosperity in this life? For a spouse? For business connections? Or an unfiltered view of the greatness of King Jesus? What are you ultimately trying to get through all of your religious activity?
- Is your life marked by the truth of the resurrection? How does this change the way we think about and live in this world?
- What does verse 22 have to teach us about Scripture's role in changing us?