

Mark 11:15-19 — “The Judgment on False Religion: The Clearing of the Temple”

"Perhaps in no incidents recorded in the Gospels is the action of our Lord's indignation more vividly displayed than in the accounts of the cleansing of the Temple ... The form in which it here breaks forth is that of indignant anger towards those who defile God's house with trafficking, and it thus presents us with one of the most striking manifestations of the anger of Jesus in action." (B.B. Warfield)

It really became a cattle market and a cash money-house in the sacred courts of God's Temple (David Smith).

- Jesus wants our worship to be full, heartfelt & sincere. **Jesus wants worship to be true!**
 1. **Internal**
 2. **Genuine**
 3. **Responsive**
 4. **Biblical**
 5. **Joyous**

Background to Mark 11

- Jesus acted with **MESSIANIC POWER.**
 - Sunday - a day of Messianic presentation
 - *Monday - a day of Messianic power*
 - Tuesday - a day of Messianic proclamation
 - Wednesday - *a silent day of preparation*
 - Thursday - a day of Messianic preparation
 - Friday - a day of Messianic perfection
 - Sunday - a day of Messianic pronouncement

1. Jesus' **COMING** to the Temple (v.15)

2. Jesus' **CLEARING** of the Temple

"The TEMPLE TAX, required of all Jews, had to be paid in special JEWISH COINAGE. At certain times money-changers set up counters for this purpose in the courtyards of the Temple. In the same 'court of

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the Gentiles' the temple administration handled the sale of offerings and sacrifices. The High Priest's family seems to have shared the profit of this trade ... These practices and the profiteering involved in them created great resentment among the visiting Pilgrims. Jesus' action and teachings against the traders doubtless contributed to his popularity among 'all the people' (E. Earle Ellis).

3. Jesus' **CONDEMNATION** at the Temple

Isaiah 56:7

Jeremiah 7:11

4. Jesus' **CRITICS** at the Temple**There are many marks of false religion, many we find here in our text:**

✓ hypocrisy // man-pleasing // legalism // lawlessness /// hard-heartedness // greed // blame-shifting // self-aggrandizement and self-promotion // pride

Jesus was so angry with false worship because He is so passionately committed to True Worship! He is passionate for His own glory! He is zealous for His own majesty!

He is committed to His own honor!

- Heaven is a place of *true* worship where we passionately worship the Lamb in His splendor, in His beauty, for His grace, and for His blood shed for our souls!

True, authentic worship in heaven will be...

- constant
- celebratory
- corporate/communal
- conscious
- clear
- cloudless

Pertinent Scriptures that Speak of Divine Hatred for False Religion

- "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight (Isa 5.21)
- "I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their plans, because they have not listened to my words, and as for my Law, they have rejected it also (Jer 6.19)
- You who speak of God's Word and talk of God's covenant but cast His words behind you ... I will tear you in pieces and there will be none to deliver" (Ps 50.16, 22)
- Josiah took the false religion of ancient Israel and "tore down the altars of the Baals and chopped down the incense altars and he broke in pieces the Asherim and ground them to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. Then he burned the bones of the priests" (2 Chron 34.4)
- "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut the kingdom of heaven from people; nor do you enter yourselves nor do you allow those who are entering to go in ... you will receive greater condemnation" (Matt 23.13-14)
- "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites ... how will you escape the sentence of hell (Matt 23.29, 33)
- These false teachers are those whom the blackest darkness is reserved (2 Pet 2.17)
- They promise freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption ... the last state has become worse for them than the first ... for it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them (2 Pet 2.20-21)
- Ezek 13 - "woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit (heart) ... you see falsehood and lying and says, 'the Lord declares', when the Lord has not sent them ... therefore, thus says the Lord I am against you ... so my hand will be against the prophets ... they say peace, when there is no peace. And so tell them: I will make a violent wind break out in my wrath, there will also be in my anger a flooding rain and hailstones to consume it in wrath ... (v.1-16)

Let's heed the helpful word from Matthew Henry: "It's not enough that the corruptions of a church be purged out -- but the preaching of the gospel must be encouraged (and brought in)."

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne.
 Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
 All music but its own!
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee;
 And hail Him as thy matchless king
 Through all eternity!

Crown Him the Lord of love!
 Behold His hands and side,
 Those wounds, yet visible above,
 In beauty glorified:
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bends his burning eye
 At mysteries so bright!

Crown Him the Lord of years,
 The Potentate of time,
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 Ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For Thou has died for me;
 Thy praise and glory shall not fail
 Throughout eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n,
 Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
 The wondrous name of Love.
 Crown Him with many crowns,
 As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
 For He is king of all.

JERUSALEM

See Him in Jerusalem
 Walking where the crowds are
 Once these streets had sung to Him
 Now they cry for murder
 Such a frail and lonely man
 Holding up the heavy cross
 See Him walking in Jerusalem
 On the road to save us

See him there upon the hill
 Hear the scorn and laughter
 Silent as a lamb he waits
 Praying to the father
 See the king who made the sun
 And the moon and shining stars
 Let the soldiers hold and nail him down
 So that he could save them

See him there upon the cross
 Now no longer breathing
 Dust that formed the watching crowds
 Takes the blood of Jesus
 Feel the earth is shaking now
 See the veil is split in two
 And he stood before the wrath of God
 Shielding sinners with his blood

See the empty tomb today
 Death could not contain him
 Once the servant of the world
 Now in victory reigning
 Lift your voices to the one
 Who is seated on the throne
 See him in the new Jerusalem
 Praise the one who saved us