

Corporate Prayer in the New Testament

“My house shall be called a house of prayer”

(Matt 21:12,13; Mk 11:15-18; Lk 19:45,46)

- Three texts in the Gospels cover this material with slight variations
- Mark mentions a house of prayer for the nations, Luke omits healings
- This, the second temple cleansing with John recording the first early on
- Malachi’s prophecy foretold that the Lord would come to His temple

3:2 Who can endure the day of His coming?...stand when He appears?

- He says, it is written “My house shall be called a house of prayer...”

I. The Terrible State of Worship in the House of God

- V12 market place, selling & exchanging money over sacrificial animals
- Grieved our LORD: this was a hindrance to the Gentiles for worship
- The priest would mostly accept sacrifices sold in the temple – costly
- Temple cleansing: Jesus asserting authority: Israel’s religion & identity
- As God’s true prophet: He condemns lies communicated about Him
- As God’s priest- he rejects the priestly system – He is its true fulfillment
- As God’s true King- He pronounces judgment on the temple (AD 70)
- He shuts the temple down, yet receives the blind, lame – (outcasts)

II. The Meaning of Jesus Actions and Words

- Jesus explained his actions by quoting from Isaiah 56:7 about prayer
- He healed: sick & lame as He alone embodies true worship (Is 56:3-7)
- Court of the Gentiles: being violently desecrated says Jesus (Jer 7:3-10)
- Jer 7: 11 fulfilled in Jesus’ actions in temple: nations - come & worship
- Den of robbers, judgment on Israel (Lk 19:42) “what made for peace”