

## **Clearing the Temple & Cursing the Tree**

Matthew 21:12-27

### **I. COMING TO HIS TEMPLE (12-17; Mal 3:1-3)**

#### **A. Claiming His Office (2 Sam 7:12-13; Jn 2:13-22)—*to speak and rule for God***

1. **His First Priority** (Lk 2:49)—His Father's House
2. **A Spiritual Kingdom** (Jn 18:36)—not of this world
3. **The Temple Symbolism** ()—God dwelling with His people
  - a. **Jesus is the Temple of God.** (Jn 1:14 & 2:19-21)—God in the flesh, living with us
  - b. **Jesus builds the Temple of God.** (Ps 14:5; Mat 16:18; 1 Pet 2:5)—the church

#### **B. Cleaning His House (Ps 69:9; Mal 3:2; 1 Pet 4:17)—Jesus will judge & purify the Church**

#### **C. Healing the Sick (Ps 103:3; Isa 53:5)—*the blind and lame came to him there***

1. **Sign of the Messiah** (Isa 35:5-6)
2. **Application for the Church** (Mat 9:12)—Church is a place of healing

#### **D. Hearing the Children (Ps 8:2)—*children's worship is pleasing to God***

1. **The Children**—The worship of God is not too dignified to include the praise of children.
  - a. **Noisy presence**
  - b. **Simple faith**
  - c. **Enthusiastic praise**
2. **Their Praises** (15-16)
  - a. **Is Jesus Worthy?**
  - b. **Is Jesus God?** In appealing to Psalm 8, Jesus is indirectly claiming deity.

E. **Leaving the City** (Gen 6:3)—*divine abandonment of those who reject the Lord's Anointed*; the wicked will eventually get their wish.

II. **CURSING THE TREE** (18-22; 2 Pet 3:3-13)

A. **Seeing the Fig Tree** (Jer 24)—*symbolic of Nation of Israel, also individual application*

B. **Being Hungry** (18)

1. **Jesus' True Humanity** (Mat 4:2; Heb 2:17)—God humbled Himself to experience real human weakness

2. **God's Righteous Expectation** (Isa 5:4)—the fruit of love and grateful obedience

C. **Finding No Fruit** (Mat 3:10; Jas 2:17)—*neither righteousness nor repentance*

D. **Withering at Once** (Lk 13:6-9; 2 Pet 3:4-7)—*catastrophic destruction*

1. **Sign of Israel's Imminent Judgment**—Nation obliterated and temple destroyed

2. **Warning of God's Righteous Wrath**—After much patience, judgment comes swiftly and catastrophically.

a. **God's wrath is real and it is righteous.** (Rom 1:18; Eph 5:6)

b. **God's patience is great but it is not infinite.** (Rom 2:4-8)

c. **Refusing the Savior will result in destruction.** (Jn 3:16-18)

III. **ASKING IN PRAYER** (20-22)