

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

If Christ was to visit the _____ today, or perhaps make an _____ of our hearts, what condition would he find it in. Mans sinful nature is such that it can quickly if we are not careful turn a very good thing into a _____ to our relationships with God. Consider how you view _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Do these things seem to you to be _____ which weigh you down. If so it may be time to revisit your reason for doing them. For is we worship, give, study Gods word, pray, or serve for any motive other than pure desire to deepen our relationships with God, we too will find these pleasures becoming burdens to our souls.

Perhaps the underlying principle in this story is that we must _____ the temptation to view relationship with God as a _____ and _____ thing. Especially when we consider the great _____ with which Christ made _____ to God a reality.

FURTHER STUDY:

What did Jesus say was the sign of His authority to cleans the temple? (John 2:18-22)

PREPARATION FOR NEXT CLASS:

Read John 3:1-John 4:42

Numbers 21:5-9

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

BY PASTOR ISAAC DE LOS SANTOS

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE:

"The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated [at their tables]. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove [them] all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." John 2:13-16

UNDERSTANDING THE TEMPLE SYSTEM:

In order to understand this dramatic scene in the life of Christ, we must understand a little about he _____ system. To begin with we should note that there was only _____ place for the Jews to approach _____, and that was the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the permanent structure that _____ the _____, thus the design and structure are very similar.

According to the Law of Moses (Deut 16:16) every man in Israel was _____ to travel to the Temple three times a year, and he was not to appear _____ - _____. While this may seem excessive to us today, we should understand that the Temple and _____ system was the _____ means of access to God for Israel.

Note that the women were not required to make the pilgrimage, for the men were to represent their home before the Lord. While Grace has given all _____, both men and women access to God, the principle of men _____ their families to God is still true today.

Note also that there was a principle of giving which each man was required to observe. He was not to appear before the LORD _____ - _____. Bringing an offering to the LORD implied _____, _____, and _____. But the practice also qualified them for the _____ of God on their homes.

This seems simple enough, but we are about to see how this system was _____ by people who saw an opportunity to _____ from the _____ of God. Israel was not a very large nation, only about _____ in length and _____ in width. Thus a journey to _____ was manageable, but presented a problem for the _____. If you travel across the rugged _____ with your offering (_____, _____, _____) they were likely to be disqualified. So the Jews devised a _____ where by you could purchase _____ sacrifices at the _____, for a fee. However you could not _____ an offering with common _____, it had to use _____ currency. This is where the profiteering took place. In order to exchange common currency for temple currency the people were charged _____ fees. So that a dove which cost a _____ by our standards would cost about _____.

God had designed to sacrificial system proportionally so that the poor gave a _____, the middle class gave a _____, and the wealthy gave a _____. Yet the Temple merchants had

turned this means of Gods grace into a _____ for Israel.

In addition to this the Jewish people were using the Temple courts as a _____ through the city of Jerusalem. Thus a place which was the Holiest site in the world had been reduced to a common market.

UNDERSTANDING CHRIST'S REACTION:

Understanding these facts sheds great light on the reason why Jesus _____ in such a dramatic way. First of all we should note that He was _____ by the fact that His Fathers sacrificial system was being used as a _____ to reaching God. By _____ the people, they made _____ a _____ rather than a blessing.

We see this similar indignation in Matthew 23:13 where Jesus said *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you _____ the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you _____ those who are entering to go in."*

Secondly we ought to note that he reacted this way because they had made the temple a _____ for personal convenience. Rather than honor the _____ they made it a common market. There was a _____ purpose in going to the Temple, and that was _____. The only reason anyone should climb the steps up the Temple Mount was to _____ with God, and yet they had made meeting with God lower _____.