



Calvary of Albuquerque

Trouble in the Temple - John 2:13-22

From the Series, Believe:879

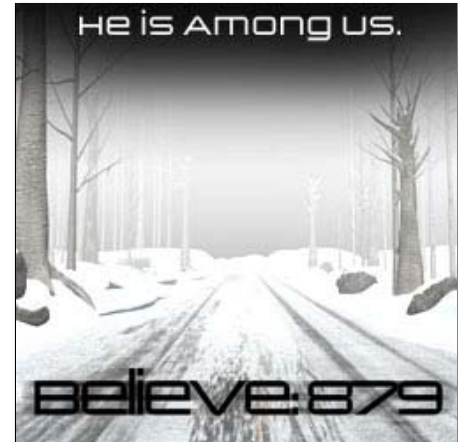
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

A hymn by Charles Wesley begins, "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child..." It's a beautiful song with a beautiful thought. However, Jesus is anything but gentle and mild in John chapter two. Here in the temple at Jerusalem, He displays His righteous anger as He overturns tables and beats the religious businesspeople with whips! But Jesus was using this trouble in the temple to predict a greater sign—the triumph of His own physical temple—His bodily resurrection!

OUTLINE

- I. The Sign in the Temple--A Historical Building (vss. 13-20)
 - A. His Passion for Reverence
 - B. His Fulfillment of Prophecy
 - C. His Action brought Negative Reaction from Enemies
- II. The Sign of the Temple--A Physical Body (vss. 19-22)
 - A. His Power of Resurrection
 - B. His Formulating of Prophecy
 - C. His Action brought Positive Reaction from Friends



For Home Fellowships:

1. What kind of "zeal" do you have for spiritual things? How do you respond when God is dishonored?
2. Do you have a response for people who ask for a sign from God? What is it?
3. Why did Jesus refer to His physical body as a temple?

DETAILED NOTES

Five times in the text the word temple is used. 2 times the word house is used referring to the temple. So seven total times "temple" is referenced, but of these, two times Jesus is speaking of His body. While the Jews are thinking of construction, Jesus changes the conversation and is speaking of resurrection. Both are important signs, driving them out and the resurrection, and they are related. It's all about believing. What happened in the temple caused His disciples to believe in Him. Jesus single handedly drove out the group and their animals. The disciples may have thought He is unpredictable. He has left the wedding at Cana where he brought joy, and now He is angry. It is his first public appearance on spiritual grounds and He doesn't read the Bible, He beats the merchandisers with a whip.

- I. The Sign in the Temple -- A historical Building Vss. 13-20
 - A. His Passion for Reverence
 1. Passover - The greatest of Jewish feasts, commemorating their deliverance from Egypt.
 - a. Jerusalem crowded
 - i. All male Jews within 15 mile of the city were required to be there
 - ii. Lifelong dream of the Jews to be there
 - iii. Jesus came south 90 miles from Capernaum
 - iv. 256,000 lambs sacrificed according to Josephus (10:1 ratio people:lambs = 2.5 million)
 - b. Huge event
 - i. Residents were required to open their homes to visitors and forbidden to charge rent
 - ii. People would camp out around the temple
 - iii. 4 weeks prior to Passover the teaching in the Synagogue would lead up to Passover
 - iv. The women would prepare their homes
 - c. 1 day festival on the 14 day of Nisan
 - d. Followed by 7 day Festival of Unleavened Bread
 2. Corruption
 - a. Those who sold - tous polountas the sellers, everyone knew them
 - i. Money changers would charge exorbitant fees - 2 hours wage just to exchange money, and another 2 hours wage for each ½ shekel exchanged
 - ii. Inspectors would determine clean animals from unclean animals and require people to purchase new ones for sacrifice
 - b. Worshipers with pure hearts were being charged to worship God
 3. Jesus drove them out
 - a. Jesus is angry
 - b. Jesus exercises his rightful authority as Messiah over the temple
 - c. God's wrath

- i. According to Arthur W. Pink there are more references to God's wrath in the Bible than to His love
 - ii. Not gentle Jesus when it comes to religious hypocrisy (Mark 3, Revelation 6)
- B. His Fulfillment of Prophecy - Psalm 69
 - Zeal for your house has consumed Me
- C. His Action brought Negative Reaction from Enemies
 - 1. They asked Jesus for a sign - Jesus just interfered with their system
 - 2. They challenge His authority because He sidestepped their authority
 - 3. These leaders look back and remembered Malachi 3
 - 4. Jesus called in "My Father's house," claiming a unique relationship with God that the religious leaders did not have
- II. The Sign of the Temple - A Physical Body (vss. 19-22)
 - A. His Power of Resurrection
 - 1. To the Jews the temple was the symbol of God's presence among them
 - 2. Jesus was the actual presence of God
 - 3. The disciples would understand that he was speaking of His body 3 years later when he rose from the dead.
 - B. His Formulating of Prophecy
 - 1. Resurrection is an essential truth of Christianity
 - 2. If Jesus doesn't rise from the dead then He isn't credible
 - 3. Resurrection proves who He is
 - 4. He predicted it
 - 5. Proves our hope for a future resurrection
 - C. Positive Reaction from Friends
 - 1. They remembered and believed
 - 2. God lets us grow at our own pace - Jesus said something they wouldn't understand for 3 years
 - 3. They believed in Jesus John 2:11
 - 4. They believed the Scripture and the Word which He had said John 2:22 -equated His words with Scripture
 - 5. The disciples began looking at life thru the lens of Scripture and formed a biblical Worldview
 - 6. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 6
 - 7. Jesus can cleanse our temples too 2 Corinthians 6
 - 8. Jesus can resurrect us

Figures Referenced: Flavius Josephus, Arthur W. Pink, Charles Wesley

Cross References: Psalm 69, Malachi 3, Mark 3, John 2:11, 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 6

Greek Terms: tous polountas (the sellers)