



Matthew 21:12-22

Matt. 21:12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

Matt. 21:13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

Matt. 21:14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

Matt. 21:15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant

Matt. 21:16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read,

*'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have perfected praise?'* "

Matt. 21:17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

Matt. 21:18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.

Matt. 21:19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

Matt. 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

Matt. 21:21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

Matt. 21:22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Observations & Discussion

1. In vs. 13 Jesus quotes part of two scriptures, Isaiah 56:7 & Jeremiah 7:11 to justify driving the merchants out of the Temple compound. Based on your reading of these scriptures and your review of the map of Herod's Temple, where would guess the merchants set up shop? What does that tell you about the Jew's perception of themselves and other people groups?

2. Why do you think Jesus was so furious with what He found in the Temple compound?

3. Compare 1Cor. 3:16-17 & 1Cor. 6:18-20 with vss. 12-13 in our text. What parallels do you see between Jesus' action in the Temple and His desire for how you use your body?

4. According to vs. 14, what happened after Jesus cleansed the Temple? What's the spiritual application in our lives personally & in the church?

5. Read vss. 15-17 again. In the space below compare how the various people responded to what Jesus was doing in the Temple.

Religious leaders:

The Children:

6. What did the religious leaders miss that the children clearly understood about Jesus?

7. What does the account of the fig tree teach us about faith & fruitfulness?