

Series: "Believe"

Message #8

C.R. 3-3-19

"Spring Cleaning in the House of God"

Text: John 2: 13-25

Intro: The passage that we are looking at today is most definitely a convicting one. Last week we celebrated the work of transformation in the heart when Christ is given first place. We saw Him take ordinary water and make it extraordinary wine. Today we are going to see the other side of Jesus. The side that most don't want to even acknowledge. We want to see the meek and mild Jesus who made sure weddings went off without a hitch. The one who went about doing good (and He did). But let's be very clear this morning the lamb is also a lion.

Today Jesus wants to send a very clear message to each of us that he is serious that we are serious. He has never nor will He ever be less than Holy. Let's watch Him walk into the Temple and let's observe Him. Let's allow Him to pierce our hearts this morning with His intentions about the way things should be handled. What are His expectations for us?

1) The Seriousness of Worship (13-17)

- a. What is it we brought with us to worship this morning? Was is the sacrifice of Praise? Was it a longing heart? Was it a beckoning heart? Is it a clogged-up heart?
- b. As God is peering into this worship service this morning, as He walks in and out of these aisles, and knows our thoughts before we even speak them what must He be feeling?
- c. As he walked up the steps into the temple and into the court of Gentiles the smell of manure would fill his nose, where once it was a sweet-smelling savor.
- d. Churches this morning are filled with the putrid smells of bitterness, anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, fornication, adultery, drunkenness, slander, gossip, judgmentalism,
- e. He would hear the bartering going on as the Jews from all over the known world had descended on Jerusalem to celebrate the night that the death angel had passed over them, but instead of praise it was all about making money.
- f. Talk about every male Jew over the age of 20 was required to pay the temple tax, but it had to be Jewish currency. You had to exchange you Roman and Greek coins for Jewish money. (With interest of course)
- g. If you brought your own sacrifice it would be examined to make sure it was without blemish. Trust me they would find a blemish, and you would be required to buy the ones they provided.
- h. What was supposed to be sacred and wonderful and beautiful was now a wretched polluted mess.
- i. Can you imagine how broken His heart must have been?
- j. We must understand that God is not going to share this time with worldly matters. This is His house, His time, His Word, and He will not share His Glory.

2) The Severity of the Judgment (v. 15-17)

- a. Honestly this is the side of Jesus we don't want to see. We don't want to think of his wrath.
- b. We want the meek and mild Jesus who does miracles, shakes hands, hugs babies, takes care of needs, and bails us out of our troubles.
- c. But we must clearly understand that though he is Love, He is also a God of wrath.
- d. **Rev 6:15** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;
- e. **Rev 6:16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
- f. **Rev 6:17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?
- g. See him wrapping up that cord of whips as righteous anger is filling him up. See the oxen running, and the people scattering.
- h. Hear the money hitting the stones and the tables crashing down.
- i. I ask you? Why didn't they restrain Him? Why didn't they tackle Him, and tell Him to stop? Where was the temple guard?
- j. You can't stop judgment.
- k. This week a denomination met to vote on a subject that was already clearly defined in scripture. It is not a gray area.
- l. A few weeks ago a group of people decided that a child to the very point of birth is as worthless as a piece of trash, and they applauded and cheered for something that the Bible clearly abhors.
- m. His judgment is sure, and it will be severe.

3) The Surety of the Word (v. 18-22)

- a. We have seen the seriousness of worship and the severity of judgment, but John makes it clear that His word is sure.
- b. John said we remembered what He said and it came to pass.
- c. **"It is a comfortable and cheering thought, that the same kind of thing that happened to the disciples is often going on at the present day. The sermons that are preached to apparently heedless ears in churches, are not all lost and thrown away. The instruction that given in schools and pastoral visits, is not all wasted and forgotten. The texts that are taught by parents to children are not all taught in vain. There is often a resurrection of sermons, and texts, and instruction, after an interval of many years. The good seed sometimes springs up after he that sowed it has been long dead and gone. Let preachers go on preaching, and teachers go on teaching, and parents go on training up children in the way they should go. Let them sow the good seed of the Bible truth in faith and patience. Their labor is not in vain in the Lord. J.C. Ryle**

4) The State of the Heart (v. 23-25)

- a. John teaches us here that many believed when they saw the miracles. That sounds really good doesn't it.
- b. But as we read on we notice something else. Jesus did not have faith in their faith.
- c. He knew their heart. He knew the state of their heart. Intellectually they believed, they were astonished at his miracles, but they were not true disciples.
- d. Jesus knew that at the first sign of persecution and trouble they would run.
- e. It would be many like this who would cry out "crucify him".

- f. What about today's church. What is the true heart of the church today?
- g. The false Christian shrinks from the eye of the all-seeing Savior. The true Christian desires his Lord's eye to be on him morning, noon and night.
- h. **Francis Chan:** "We pursue what we want; then we make sure there are no biblical commands we are violating. In essence, we want to know what God will tolerate rather than what He desires".
- i. **Francis Chan:** "In our impatient culture, we want to experience biblical awe without biblical devotion".
- j. Jesus knows our heart. He knows our true motives.
- k. Our hearts can become like that outer court at the Temple. Even while we sit in church, the world and its ways are spinning in our heads. We are thinking about the next business deal, the next game, the next trip or party.
- l. God help our heart to be true.
- m. We desperately need people who have believing faith that is the real deal.
- n. The whip in His hand is a loving act. He wants what is best for us.

Conclusion: The sin of the money changers and the religious was they loudly proclaimed the holiness of God, but they denied it in practice. The way we worship reveals what we think about God.

The truth is that some of us are not cutting it. There are some here that once were excited and overflowing. But something happened. Instead of hearts becoming temples, they became something else. A savings and loan, or place of recreation, etc..

The awesome truth is Jesus cares about his temples and comes with a whip in his hand. He wants us clean.

This is not the only time that Jesus did this. He came again. Pleading with them to do what is right.

Think about it. When he left at some point they started back up again. Doing the same thing. Have you? Have you set the tables back up ignoring the message of Jesus.

Correct it today. Examine yourself. Run to Jesus.