

Mrk41 – **A House of Prayer** – **Mark 11:15-17**

In **2003**, we did a **message** (& **worship**) on **this same** subject called ***“True Worship in The True Temple”***

& **that Msg & Worship**

had a **lasting impact** on our **Daughter Breezy**

& **the fact** that it had **such** a **lasting impact** on **Breezy** **increased** its **lasting impact** on me

& **17 yrs** later **this subject** still ***moves me deeply***

So I **want** to **pray**

that **this subject** would **move us** all **Today**

Let's Pray

Jim Cymbala, Pastor of The **Brooklyn Tabernacle**

wrote a **book** called ***“Fresh Wind Fresh Fire”***

Which is also **about** our **Subject** today

& **which** I highly **recommend**

& **some** of **my inspiration** for **today**

comes from **Jim Cymbala's msg** on this **text**

Also - for **today** – I'm **skipping over vs's 12-14**

but **we'll go BACK** & **teach** them **Next week**

**So - we left Jesus last week
at the Triumphal Entry**

**where he went into the Temple – FOR RECON
& then left for the night to Bethany**

Today – HE comes BACK into Jerusalem

**The echoes of the HOSANNA'S cried out by the crowd
at the Triumphal Entry - are still ringing in the air**

The people think – that Jesus is going to lead
the Jewish Religion & the Jewish people

in the OVERTHROW
of the Roman Rule of Jerusalem

& they were RIGHT about the OVERTHROW part

but it wasn't the Roman Rule that Jesus first chose
to OVERTHROW – OR should we say – OVERTURN

**It was the BIG BUSINESS of Religion
that Jesus FIRST went after**

Mark 11:15–16 (NLT)

15 When they arrived back in Jerusalem (next day), Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. (Remember it's Passover = Huge Crowd/Scene)

Jesus had Chk'd the SIZE of This SWAP MEET yesterday

today he comes back - With Authority & Intensity
& he begins Cleaning House - HIS HOUSE

He was Physically Aggressive – & he was ANGRY
because the ZEAL of the Lord was consuming him

& he had already done this ONCE
at the beginning of his ministry (in Jn 2)

& now – in the final days before the cross
Jesus does it again – JUST AS Angry

<p><u>WHY?</u> – <u>What</u> would <u>cause</u> <u>such</u> an <u>intense, angry reaction</u> from <u>Jesus</u>?</p>
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Mark 11:17 says it all (NLT)

17 He said to them (to the people he was running out of the temple), “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

The word - the NLT Translates “Temple”
is literally HOUSE

The NKJV - is the translation many of us are familiar with

Mark 11:17 (NKJV)

17 . . . “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Since the 1960's, In our culture
Jesus has been portrayed

as the "All Accepting, All Peaceful, Universal Good-Guy"

But – THIS is the REAL Jesus!

When Jesus did this same thing the First time

John 2:15 says – Jesus made a WHIP of CORDS
to drive this den of thieves out of the temple courts

& when it was all over - John 2:17 says (ESV)
17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." (Psalm 69:9)

ZEAL for the House of God
ZEAL for the Dwelling Place of God
CONSUMES Jesus Christ

Jesus is Passionately Committed
to what happens in HIS HOUSE

THIS – is HIS DWELLING PLACE
This is The HOUSE of GOD

& Jesus issues his command to us Right Here

<p><i>My house shall be called</i> (My house shall be known as) <i>a house of prayer for all nations</i> (all people)</p>

Now – this “**Den of Thieves**”
that **Jesus** was **DRIVING OUT**

Was **actually started** as a “**Service**”
to **help** the **Worshippers**

The **Jewish Worshippers** would **walk** for **many miles**
to **get** to the **Temple** to **Worship**

& it **would** be **easier** for **them**

to **BUY** an **Acceptable Sacrifice AT** the Temple
than to **carry one** on the **journey** there

& **the Worshippers** had to **use**
the **Jewish Coin** to pay the **Temple Tax**

& **it was easier** to **get** the **right coin** at the **Temple**
than to **find it somewhere** on the **way**

But this “**Service**”
had **become known** as the **Bazaar of Annas**

Who was the **High Priest** who **turned** this “**service**”
into a **full-blown** - **Mafia Operation**

Multiple levels of the **Priesthood** were **getting** their **CUT**
from this **Mafia Run - Swap Meet**

<p><u>So</u> the <u>sellers</u> were <u>greatly overcharging</u> the <u>worshippers</u> in <u>order</u> to <u>pay everybody</u> who <u>got their cut</u></p>

& so The Worship of God – had become BIG BUSINESS

**Can you imagine a church culture
where Worship becomes BIG BUSINESS?**

Of course we can, right?

**& we're not shocked – because we've become ACCUSTOMED
to seeing the church as BIG BUSINESS**

**In fact - We give Greatest HONOR
to the Biggest Mega-Church - BUSINESS EMPIRES**

**But Jesus - DROVE ALL “Business Operations” –
OUT of the Temple Courts**

**Which is why WE put an ABRUPT STOP
to every person who tries SELLING something here**

**From Candles to MLM's – If someone sees
this group of believers as a “Business Opportunity”**

**they get un-invited here – really quick
& sometimes with a similar ZEAL as Jesus had**

**Jesus says – My House shall be called
a HOUSE OF PRAYER - - NOT a Business Opportunity**

Jesus says – To the Religious Leadership THEN
& To the Church Leadership NOW

This is NOT your House – This is MY House

& in Mark 11:17 (NKJV)

17 (he says) . . . *My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations*

This is the POINT - & **Jesus** is Very Passionate about it

When Jesus says - *My house shall be known as a house of prayer for all people*

it means the ATMOSPHERE - in the House of God

is to be the Atmosphere of PRAYER
for everyone who comes in

The ENVIRONMENT of the House of God

is to be the Environment of PRAYER
for everyone who comes in

But – **Maybe** we've gotten away from
what PRAYER actually Means

Maybe we've REPLACED – How the BIBLE describes PRAYER
with how our CULTURE describes prayer

Our Culture says Prayer is repeating some words to God –
Even Repeating memorized words to God

& certainly, prayer DOES INVOLVE our Words

BUT – the Picture of Prayer in the Bible
is much more than Repeating Words to God

The Picture of Prayer in the Bible

is a CONDUIT of
COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION with God

Prayer is being In Communion with God
& Prayer is being In Communication with God

& Jesus is DEMANDING here
that we create an Environment

where every person who walks in the door

has the Opportunity to Experience
COMMUNING & COMMUNICATING with God

Communion means to Share life in common
To be UNITED WITH - to be ONE WITH

& PRAYER is the CONDUIT
thru which we are United with God

& in this Communing with God
There IS Two-Way Communication

But at times – it is MUCH DEEPER than words -
It is a Heart-Connection with God

Romans 8:26 (NLT)

26 . . . the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

This is a COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION - with God
that CANNOT be Expressed in words

& if we will GRASP this Truth about Prayer

that it is a conduit
for COMMUNING & COMMUNICATING with God

Then we can understand

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

17 pray without ceasing,

<p><u>This</u> Vs <u>means</u> to <u>be</u> in a <u>constant state</u> of <u>CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION</u> with <u>God</u></p>

It certainly does not mean

to be repeating a certain set of words all day

AND – if we will GRASP this truth about Prayer

That it is a Conduit

for **CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION** with **God**

Then we can easily understand

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion . . .

PRAYING in the Spirit at all times MEANS

being in an ongoing

COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION with God – at all times

& Jesus Commands us

to **Create** an ***Atmosphere in the church***

where ALL people have the opportunity

to **make** this ***CONNECTION with GOD***

& Jesus says – THIS is what the church *MUST BE known for*****

Have you ever wondered why we don't do

a **lot** of ***social stuff***, or ***business type stuff***, **during church?**

Because we have always been very committed

to **obeying** this **strong command** from **Jesus**

Above ALL ELSE - we **want** to **make** this **90 minutes**

a **time** of **COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION**
between you & God

& **so we** do **very little**
of **anything else** - on **Sunday morning**

Because **Jesus SAYS**
This place should be **KNOWN**

as a place where **ANY PERSON** can **come** in
& **Commune with God** - & **Communicate with God**

& **Listen** – I've **made** a **TON of mistakes** in the ministry

but this is **one thing** we have **NEVER WAVERED ON**

Since our **first Sunday** here
we've been **committed** to **making this time**

an **opportunity** for you – to **experience**
CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION with **God**

& **I pray** – **you** are **GLAD**
that **when** you **walk** into **this environment**

that **you** are **going** to **have the opportunity**
to **be** in **Communion & Communication** with **God**

Consider the **POWER in Scripture** – of **God's People**
being in **Communion & Communication** with **God**

WHAT were the **disciples** actually **DOING**
when the **NT church BEGAN?**

We're they at a **MEGA-WORSHIP concert?** No
We're they listening to the **BEST EVER sermon?** No

They were in the **upper room**
in **Communion & Communication** with **God**

& **while** they **were** in **THAT Environment**

the **Holy Spirit** was **poured out** - & **by** the **end of the day**
3,000 were **added** to the **NT church**

In Acts 9 – When **Saul of Tarsus** is **knocked to the ground**
by **Jesus** - & **Radically saved**

We read in Acts 9:9 (ESV)

**9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate
nor drank.**

& **then** the **Lord spoke** to **Ananias** – “**Go find Saul of Tarsus**”

& **as** an **assurance** - that **Saul** had **been transformed**
the **Lord said** to **Ananias** - **in**

Acts 9:11-12 (ESV)

11 . . . look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him . . .

The **Lord says** to **Ananias** - **It's ok** – this **Saul of Tarsus** is in **COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION** with me

& **THIS Atmosphere** of **Prayer**
Transformed SAUL into **PAUL**

& **LAUNCHED** the **NT church**
that has **reached all the way** – to **US** - **Today**

& **then** – many **years later** - **Paul INSTRUCTS**
young **Timothy** – about **Pastoring** the **church**

1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

FIRST of all – Before all things

in your church let there be supplications, prayers, intercessions, & thanksgiving

all **TYPES** of **Communion & Communication** with **God**

& **Paul says** – **First of ALL** – **Above everything else**
Create THIS ENVIRONMENT in **your church**

**Every Revival that's been recorded in modern times
has been recorded as STARTING with PRAYER**

Genuine Communion & Communication with God

The **greatest thing**

a **Christ-Follower** can **LEARN**

& the **greatest thing**

a **church** can **TEACH** a **Christ-Follower**

is **how** to **have REAL**

Communion & Communication with **God** – **in Prayer**

& finally - Hebrews 4:16 says (NKJV)

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Listen to me **please** – **ALL** that we **do here**

The **WORSHIP** – The **SHARING** – The **PREACHING**

it is **ALL Designed** to do **ONE THING** –

& **that is** to **get you** to the **Throne of GRACE**

To **get you** to **come BOLDLY**

to the **Throne of GRACE**

where you will **FIND** - **God's Mercy & Grace**

Guys – This church can be as BIG or as SMALL
as God wants it to be – *it doesn't matter*

BUT – What DOES Matter is THIS

The Leaders of this church
are going to be judged - with THIS Measuring Stick

Did we Create an Atmosphere
in the House of God

Where People could
Commune and Communication with God

Did we LEAD people - to the Throne of Grace?
Where they could find GOD

DID we make God's House - a House of PRAYER?

or did we make it a Den of Entertainment,
or a Den of Social Events, or . . . a Den of Thieves?

Everything we do here
must be - to make a way for you

to enter into COMMUNION & COMMUNICATION with God

**Where you have the opportunity
to REACH the Throne of Grace**

**Where you will find the MERCY & GRACE you Need –
For today, and for every day after today**

**At the Throne of Grace - is where you can
Taste & see that the Lord is good**

**& when you do get there, the Lord will lead you
& guide you for His Name's sake,**

**he will direct your steps,
he will hem you in on all sides,**

**& he will set your path
according to his Good & Perfect Will**

So . . . Let's Pray