

# LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

## LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE. - CLEANSING THE CLUTTER

### Community Group Study Guide - Week of August 22, 2021

#### Introduction

- In the city there are more image bearers of God, which makes life here exciting and beautiful, but there's also more depravity. The encounters and challenges of daily life clutter our minds, and cause us to forget God's mission for us as members of his church.
- Every Sunday worship service we try to refocus the congregation's hearts and minds on the teachings and activities that are going to stoke everyone's zeal for God and his mission the most.
- In the message this week, we focus on the zeal that Jesus Christ had for proper worship of God, and how we should follow his example.

#### Jesus is Consumed with Zeal for God's House

- v13-16: Upon entering the Temple at the time of Passover, a time of celebration when people give thanks to God for their salvation, Jesus discovers that the leaders were extorting the people when they were coming to worship. The Court of Gentiles, the place distinguished as the most holy place of worship for gentiles is bustling like the New York Stock Exchange.
- v17: In response to all that is happening in this place of worship, Jesus zealously fashions a whip and overturns the tables of all of the traders. Jesus Christ fulfills the prophesy of Psalm 69:9 through the expression of his zeal (see also John 15:23-25 and 19:28-30 when he acknowledges his own fulfillment of these verses). This is a direct stand against superficial faith and church authority that allows it.
- When we think about our faith today, we need to decide where we stand with the Lord, before persecution comes and our faith evaporates. God demands absolute loyalty from those he loves.
- Many think that if people only knew more about Christ they would love him, but, in fact, the closer people get to know him the less and less they like him. Why? Like Jesus does to the money changers in this passage, he hits people where it hurts the most and commands their worship in that area of life. Jesus has to flip tables in the lives of people in order to reveal to them what they love more than him. He demands that they love and care for the same things as him or suffer the consequences.
- Though scripture captures many examples of sinful hot-headedness and unholy "zeal that is not according to knowledge," there is nothing wicked about Christ's zeal. His zeal is as holy as his love, mercy and grace. It is an expression of perfect love of God, the house of God, worship, sacrifice and prayer.
- At the time that Jesus went to the temple, worship had lost the element of sacrifice. People weren't offering animals that they raised but animals that they bought. The clergy weren't serving out of love for God but for their personal gain. To make worship easier and more accessible, the leaders had created a consumerist, you pay and receive culture. Also, the Gentiles were kept from worshipping God.
- v18: The response to Jesus' actions shows that the Jews were not interested in pure worship and protecting the sanctity of God's house, but concerned about preserving their turf.
- v19-22: Jesus response can be summarized as, "This turf that you're protecting is actually my temple, my body. I'm properly zealous for it."
- v23-25: Jesus knew the fickleness of the enthusiasm of the people; he knew how shallow their commitment was. He didn't need approval to be able to continue on his mission from God.
- Upon arriving in Jerusalem after his triumphant entry, Jesus again zealously flipped the tables (Matt. 21). This time it got him killed. He didn't whip, but was whipped (for us).

#### Are you consumed with zeal for God's house?

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand the zeal that Jesus Christ had for proper worship of God.

### Heart

To love Jesus for his zeal and wrath as much as for his grace and mercy.

### Hands

To zealously seek to keep the essential elements of worship of God at the forefront of our hearts and the church.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **Baptism Seminar** will be held on September 12 after the 11:15am service (~1PM). Meet Pastor Andy by the Welcome Center.

A **Parent Commissioning Class** will be held this Sunday, September 5 at 11:15AM in Lissner Hall. [Learn more & sign up here.](#)

- Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ zealously bearing a whip as much as you love him for his mercy, tenderness and selflessness? You should.
- We're all zealous for time, talent, or treasure. We should be more zealous for God, God's temple, God's work, the decluttering of our own soul, and the salvation of others. There's no better way to spend life than to be zealous for these things.
- Those who are not zealous for the Lord and the things that he loves must repent. Revelation 3:15-16, 19; Titus 2:11-14.
- At Mosaic, we emphasize worship, community and service because we believe that these are the three things that stoke zeal in the life of a believer for the things of God.
- We limit the emphasis to these three things so that with your stoked zeal you have margin in your life to express your love for God and neighbor.
- We're not customers on a cruise ship, we're worshippers on a warship.
- How can we motivate each other and other people on this mission? By expressing thankfulness to God and those who have encouraged us toward more faithful worship of him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### **Read John 2:13-25**

#### **Jesus is consumed with zeal for God's house.**

1. Why is Jesus so mad when he encounters the scene at the Temple?
2. How were the leaders at the Temple misleading God's people?
3. How were Gentiles, the people outside of God's special favor, impacted by the activities taking place at the Temple?
4. What are some of the ways that individual Christians and churches get distracted from proper worship of God today?
5. Does focusing on the zeal of Jesus Christ help you understand the nature of who he is in any new ways?
6. Why should Christians love the Lord Jesus Christ bearing a whip in God's Temple just as much as when we think about his mercy, tenderness and selflessness?

#### **Are you consumed with zeal for God's house?**

7. Did this message help you see that you have grown complacent in your service to the Lord in any specific areas of life?
8. In your time at Mosaic, how has the zeal for simplicity and the focus on the essential elements of personal and congregational worship of God (worship, community and mission) enhanced your ability to stay focused on God's mission in your personal life?
9. How have you seen the zeal for the simplicity of worship prove fruitful in the life and witness of the church?
10. How can a Christian have confidence that he is zealous about the right things?