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FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

It's My House!

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MATTHEW 21:23-25 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus expressed His passion for the temple twice in Scripture. At the beginning of His ministry, He made a lash of small cords and effectively cleansed the temple of those who used it for carnal purposes. Again, during the last week of His life, He drove out of the temple all those who bought and sold, declaring, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." Jesus made it clear that He cared about what went on in His house. He established that it was His house. As the owner of the house, He wanted it to be known first and foremost for prayer. Immediately after He cleansed the temple, the blind and the lame came and He healed them.

Later, the apostle Paul reminds us that we are now the temple of the Holy Ghost, purchased with the blood of Jesus, and we should therefore not defile ourselves. Our bodies should be used to glorify God in all things.



Application

We all have heard the words "It's my house!" expressed by a frustrated parent who did not approve of what was taking place in their home. Those words express ownership and a return to a standard of behavior and purpose previously established. Sometimes things in our houses can slide into a state of disorder and chaos and it takes an authority figure to establish healthy norms for all to live and thrive. Jesus clearly felt like things had gotten off course in His own house. He passionately cleansed it of everything that offended Him in order to establish an environment of prayer and healing. In like manner, the Lord wants to cleanse us and remove from our temples those things that offend and hinder the flow of His Spirit.

Discussion

1. Why was Jesus so passionate about His temple?
2. What does Jesus want to take place in His temple?
3. What did Jesus do before healing could take place in the temple?
4. For what should the church be known?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people receive a revelation of themselves as the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Pray that God's people would allow the Lord to remove anything from their life that offends Him.

Pray that God's people would be a conduit for kingdom prayer.

Pray that the power of God is manifested when we assemble.