



# CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"Matthew 21:12-17" on May 27 & 30, 2021

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 21:1-11 affect your week?

### DISCOVER: MATTHEW 21:12-17

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 21:12-17 Jesus Cleanses the Temple – This passage describes Jesus' second cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem as pilgrims came to worship God for the Passover. Jesus in righteous anger saw God's holy dwelling place being defiled by dishonest money changers and merchants in the Court of Gentiles as they exploited those who came to worship. He saw all of this as a hindrance to the ability of the pilgrims to worship God; this causes us to look inwardly to see what hindrances might be holding us back from growing closer to Jesus!

The Jews and religious leaders were looking for their Messiah – they expected a conquering hero, a ruler - despite prophecies describing the Messiah as a suffering servant. Jesus' humility and His compassion for the blind, the lame, the poor, and sinners were not what they expected.

- In our own lives, we live daily with many kinds of expectations that are not being met; how do you find you handle these frustrations, disappointments, or struggles?
- As believers our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; how can this be a resource for your handling unmet expectations? How often do you call upon the Holy Spirit for help?

The hypocrisy of the religious leaders was obvious in this passage; Jesus used Scripture to address this hypocrisy. We can apply those same scriptures to examine our own hearts as the dwelling place for God's Holy Spirit!

- Read Jeremiah 7:1-8 and Hebrews 10:19-25; are any hypocrisies or impurities making your heart more like a den of thieves than a house of prayer?
- Are pride, anger, unforgiveness, self-will, or any other impurities hindering your ability to grow closer to Jesus?
- What steps can you take to 'cleanse your temple' – to passionately identify and remove the hindrances to your getting to know Jesus better, making Him truly Lord of your life?
- What hypocrisies do you see in the Church at large today that hinder non-believers from seeking Jesus and inviting Him into their hearts? How can we as Christians address those hindrances?

Romans 3:21-26 and Hebrews 12:1-3 When God looks at us, He sees Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice. We can respond by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus!

- How do those passages make you feel as a Child of God?
- Whom do you know that needs to hear these words? What opportunities can you take to give that person hope?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.