

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship – 7-29-26
Matthew Chapter 21 Part 4
Jesus leaves the temple.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) While studying Jesus casting out the moneychangers, we probed the idea of hating sin but still acting lovingly toward the person.
- 2) Reflecting the character of God.
 - a) The verses we looked at included Psalm 103:8, Ezekiel 33:11, Romans 5:8.
- 3) The takeaway from this – as believers walk in the Spirit each day, remember –
 - a) We speak the truth about without compromise.
 - b) We speak the truth in love with humility and compassion.
 - c) We do not forget that we were once in bondage to sin. Saved by the grace of God.
 - d) We speak the truth because we love the person enough to tell them the truth.
- 4) Jesus declared the Temple to be, “My house.”

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Jesus' actions were a powerful display of His divine authority and His desire for the purity of God's house and true worship.
- 2) When Jesus identified Himself as God, there were those who believed it.

2. Jesus heals the blind and the lame.

a. Verse 14 –

- 1) I think of the righteous anger we see displayed here against sin followed by extending genuine, authentic love and grace toward the blind and lame.
- 2) The blind and the lame came to Jesus.

b. Verse 15 –

- 1) Why couldn't they rejoice?
 - a) Pride?
 - b) The “saw the wonderful things that he did...”
 - c) Exodus 3:20 –
- 2) “the children crying out in the temple.” – two thoughts here.
 - a) Are these actual children as we would think in age?
 - b) Is this a reference to their attitude and faith?
- 3) Their cry helps us here – “Hosanna to the Son of David.”
- 4) The Chief Priests – “and they were sore displeased.”

c. Verse 16 –

- 1) Was this really a question or a statement made of frustration?
- 2) “babes” speaks of children. “sucklings” can speak of nursing babies.

3. Jesus encounters a barren fig tree. Matthew 21:17-22

a. Verse 17 –

- 1) Jesus leaves the city and heads a couple of miles to Bethany.

b. Verse 18 –

- 1) “Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.”

c. Verse 19 –

- 1) This may seem odd or frustrating that Jesus would curse this tree because of no fruit.
- 2) Fig trees are mentioned several times throughout the N.T.
- 3) This fig tree had leaves on it but no fruit. Was that normal?

- 4) In Jewish tradition, the fig tree was often a symbol of the nation of Israel.
 - a) It carried both promise and warning.
- 5) When Jesus cursed the fig tree it was a powerful parable to the disciples as well as a prophetic sign related to Israel.
- 6) In studying this, I remembered something Jesus had said earlier in our study.
 - a) Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:8.
 - b) Generally speaking, the people didn't see this in each other. Jesus and prophets had to point it out.
- 7) With one fig tree Jesus called out the nation of Israel.
- d. Verse 20 –
 - 1) Matthew gives us a mental picture of what happened.
 - 2) Remember the context here otherwise you may walk away from what Jesus said with a wrong view.
- e. Verse 21 –
 - 1) Jesus answers their question.
 - 2) Drawing from the context:
 - a) Is hypocrisy like a mountain that seems impossible to move?
 - 3) Why contrast a mountain with hypocrisy?
 - 4) The Application –
 - 5) We see hypocrisy all through the Old Testament with Israel.
- f. Verse 22 –
 - 1) All things that are in line with God's plan, will and purpose in your life is what you will receive.
4. Tonight's Takeaway:
 - a. Believers, as we walk in the Spirit each day, remember –
 - b. Why do you think so many in Israel did not heed Jesus' statement in Matthew 15:8?