

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship
Matthew Chapter 21 Part 3
Jesus enters the temple.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Investigating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in Matthew 21.
- 2) Some Pharisees confronted Jesus. Luke 19:38-40
 - a) Verse 39 – “Master, rebuke thy disciples.”
 - b) Verse 40 – Jesus responded – “if these should hold their peace...”
- 3) Jesus wept over the city. Luke 19:41
 - a) We considered what Jesus saw.
 - b) We asked ourselves, do we see anything like this today?
- 4) Matthew 21:12-16 Jesus headed for the Temple.
 - a) Some important things to remember here.
 - b) Jesus cast out those who were cheating, exhibiting righteous anger.
- 5) Has this thought ever crossed your mind?
 - a) Be angry with sin but act loving toward the person. Hate the sin but love the sinner.
 - b) How does the Bible address this?

2. To be angry with sin but to act lovingly toward the person.

a. Reflecting the character of God.

- 1) As a believer, hating sin is biblical for God hates sin.
- 2) We also see God extending genuine, authentic love and grace.
- 3) Psalm 103:8 –

b. Do you see the balance here?

- 1) Ezekiel 33:11 –
 - a) In the first 6 verses – the imagery and accountability for the watchman.
 - b) Verse 7 – Ezekiel is God’s watchman for Israel.
 - c) Verse 11 – God does not delight in punishing the sinner.
- 2) John 8:1-11 – The woman caught in adultery.
 - a) What do you see from the religious leaders?
 - b) What do you see from Jesus?
 - c) Jesus loved her but did not dismiss the sinfulness.

c. Keep thinking this through.

- 1) Ephesians 4:26 –
 - a) Anger can be a tough controlling emotion that can lead to destructive actions.
 - b) Is righteous anger biblical?
- 2) Romans 5:8 – The Gospel reminds us of this truth.
 - a) God did not ignore the sin problem of mankind.
- 3) Believer, as we walk in the Spirit each day, remember:
 - a) We speak the truth about sin 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 but were saved by grace.
 - d) We speak the truth because we love that person enough to tell them the truth.
- 4) Back to our study.

3. Jesus reminds them of the truth. Matthew 21:13

a. Verse 13 –

- 1) "My house" – what is Jesus saying here?
 - a) Isaiah 56:7 –
 - b) Jeremiah 7:11 –
- 2) "My house shall be called the house of prayer" –
- 3) Jesus called them out.
 - a) "but ye have made it a den of thieves."
 - b) "den" – speaks of a cave where thieves and robbers hid.
 - c) The Temple has become a hiding place for robbers.
 - d) Has the Church become a place for some to hide?
- b. Verse 14 –
 - 1) Do you see the balance of Jesus' actions? Righteous anger and grace.
 - 2) The blind and the lame are healed.
- c. Verse 15 –
 - 1) Why couldn't they rejoice?
 - 2) "the wonderful things that he did" –
 - a) Exodus 3:20 –
 - 3) "the children crying out in the temple" –
 - a) Are these actual children?
 - b) Could it be a reference to their faith?
 - 4) "and they were sore displeased." – moved with indignation toward Jesus.
- d. Verse 16 –
 - 1) They asked Jesus a question, "Hearest thou what these say?"
 - a) Was this really a question or a statement made out of frustration?
 - 2) Jesus responded, "have ye never read, out of the mouth of babes and suckling thou hast perfected praise."
4. Tonight's Takeaway:
 - a. Are you growing in your balance of anger toward sin and yet genuine, authentic love for the sinner?
 - b. As believers, the importance of a humble heart.
 - c. Keeping our focus on Jesus.