

The Confrontational Jesus...

Announcements:

- IF Gathering
- ZOOM - check your SPAM folders for announcements, emails, communication, etc.
- Office Reopening plans

Q: Have you ever thought about Jesus being "confrontational"? In what way?

Q: How might scripture's presentation of Jesus, differ from how people in the "world" see/understand Him? Why do you think that is?

READ: John 2:13-17 "The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for your house will consume me.*"

READ: Luke 19:45-46 "And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

Q: So when Jesus "cleanses" the Temple in Jerusalem, WHY does He do this?

Q: Why does Jesus quote Isaiah 56:7?

Q: What does this teach us about God's desire for "all nations"?

READ: Psalm 69:7-9 "For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. ⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. ⁹*For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.*"

Q: According to John 2:17, the "disciples remembered that" Psalm 69:7-9 was about Jesus! What does this tell us about Jesus?

Q: How does this point to His death and resurrection?

READ: Psalm 139:1-6 "O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it."

Q: According to this psalm, "how" does God "know" us?

Q: How is this comforting? Frightening? Concerning? Encouraging?

READ: Psalm 103:17 "But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him.."

Q: What does this tell us about God?

Q: How have we seen God's love demonstrated to us?

READ: Psalm 139: 23 - 24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! "

Q: What is the prayer of the psalmist here?

Q: When God shows us the "grievous way" in us, why is that "confrontational"?

Q: How is Jesus' confrontation of us, actually a demonstration of His love for us?

Q: Why is this often hard for us to "see it that way"?

Q: What can help us when He is confronting us?