

“The Inspection of the Son of Man Part 1” Luke 19:45 - 20:19

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Exodus 12:1-13

As we have just read that on the Monday after the Triumphant Entry, they would be gathering the Lambs for the Passover and would begin their inspections to make sure that they had no blemishes and defects. Jesus being the Passover Lamb that will die for the sins of the world would naturally need to go through the same process. This is what we will be seeing over the next two weeks. All the different groups that make up the leadership of National Israel will bring their “tests” only to lose at each confrontation. In the end Jesus will be the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who will step into our place and take upon Himself all of our sins. His blood will be the ultimate Passover through the New Covenant that we will share in later. Let’s first look at three different events that happened during the Passion week.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Luke 19:45-48

When you first walk into what was known as the temple proper, which would be what today is known as the “Temple Mount” there were various areas that only certain people could go into.

It started with the outer court which was the farthest away from the temple and it was also known as the court of the Gentiles. It was the closest non-Jews could go to worship God. Then getting closer you would have the court of the women, then after that the court of the men. Then there was the area for the priests where the alter was at and after that was the temple that had the holy place were the courses set by David would burn incense and then the most holy place which only the High Priest and his family could go into. This place where Jesus just entered into was the court of the gentiles and what had happened is they had turned it into a marketplace. They had a racket with the Priests. How it worked was people would bring their Lamb, and they would find some kind of blemish or defect and reject it. Then trying to tell them they are doing them a favor send them to a merchant that will trade theirs for a good one for an extra cost. They also offered clean animals to those that could only bring cash at exorbitant prices. Everyone got rich off of this scam. So now you can see why Jesus is so angry. Did you know that there is a righteous anger that God possesses?

Isaiah 13:9

Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

Isaiah 66:15

For behold, the LORD will come with fire
And with His chariots,
like a whirlwind, To render His anger with fury,
And His rebuke with flames of fire.

Zephaniah 3:8

“Therefore wait for Me,” says the LORD,
“Until the day I rise up for plunder;
My determination is to gather the nations
To My assembly of kingdoms,
To pour on them My indignation,
All My fierce anger;
All the earth shall be devoured
With the fire of My jealousy.”

Hebrews 13:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Now Jesus is quoting two scriptures here. The first one deals with what this court is supposed to be for...

Isaiah 56:6-7

“Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be

His servants—everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant—even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Jesus is reminding them what the purpose of this court was for. It was a place of worship not a marketplace!

Jeremiah 7:11

“Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” says the LORD.

Again, Jesus showing He is the Messiah and Lord by reflecting the exact same characteristics as God the Father. Do you know the church is not a place for networking and merchandise?

Jude 1:10-11

But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Did you notice what Luke includes in here? These people are not going to be testing Him honestly. What was it they wanted? To destroy Him! Do you know there are a whole bunch of people that want to destroy you but can't because of the people? This is why people will approach us with dishonest questions. You need to use your discernment when it comes to who we devote our time to when it comes to witnessing. Jesus had no choice, but you and I do.

Matthew 7:6

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”

Don't waste your time with people that will not listen to wisdom and reason. They are just like these guys, nothing you say will change their minds!

Whose Authority?

Luke 20:1-8

Jesus did have a crowd of people that were listening to His teaching. Remember this was said...

Matthew 7:28-29

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

So, they asked Him, but Jesus knew they were not being honest. So, He asked them a simple question that demands an answer, but they don't give Him one.

A great way to discern whether someone is being honest or not is to ask them a simple question like: "If I could prove to you that the Bible is the Word of God and that Jesus really did rise again, would you believe?". If they are honest, they would be open to that but if they are combative and snide in their answer just walk away.

Notice though they are afraid of the people and what they think. Are you starting to see these guys are politicians? Their place of power was being threatened, and they didn't like it at all. They are supposed to be the ones in authority! They wanted Jesus to bow to them not the other way around. If you have been the victim of spiritual abuse, I will be the first to apologize to you. This type of legalistic attitude has found its way into the modern church, and it does not belong there.

1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Jesus is Lord, not me. I am here to serve you not to be your overlord.

We also have those that come here and want to question our authority. They want to see degrees and letters of reference. They want to know who sent us and where we get our doctrine. And again, we just point them to the word of God.

Jesus now shares a parable to them that describes these leaders.

The Parable of the Vineyard

Luke 20:9-19

Now if you are not familiar with it you would see why they knew this was speaking about them. The nation of Israel was always known as God's Vineyard.

Open your Bible to Isaiah 5:1-7

Jesus is rightfully comparing the Israel of His day to the Israel of Isaiah's day. They are the same and the sin is the same and the outcome will be the same.

When they answered Him no, He quotes from the very psalm they were signing to Him just the day or two before...

Psalm 118:22-23

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Why could they not see the destruction of the current system and replaced with a new one? They could not see the verses that speak of the rejection of the Messiah and His suffering.

The time has now come that whoever falls onto the stone in brokenness will receive mercy, but those leaders will have to pay the penalty of the Stone falling on them!

They knew and how did they respond? In humility and grace?
No!

Luke 20:19

And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew He had spoken this parable against them.

They wanted to kill Him! Do you know that many of us will share the same fate...

1 Peter 4:14-16

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

So, through all their testing He is found blameless and spotless and suitable to be the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

And that is good news for those who would believe. Those that are willing to listen and receive the forgiveness of our sins.

Communion

Luke 22:14-16

When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:19

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Luke 22:20

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”