

DAY 2: ZEAL FOR GOD'S HOUSE

After Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His mission was still unfolding. While the crowds were celebrating His arrival, something was deeply wrong within the temple. The religious leaders had allowed it to become something it was never meant to be. What was designed to be a house of prayer and worship had turned into a marketplace, filled with greed and corruption.

When Jesus saw this, He was stirred with righteous anger. This wasn't a loss of control or a thoughtless reaction, it was a holy response rooted in His passion for honoring God and protecting what was sacred. Jesus took action, clearing the temple, overturning tables, and driving out those who were misusing God's house. His anger came from a place of deep love for what is holy and right, not from sin or personal frustration.

MATTHEW 21:12-13

“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ He said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’

Righteous anger isn't about reacting out of hurt or frustration; it's about responding for what is holy, just, and right. Jesus' response in the temple revealed His deep passion for God's purposes and His desire to protect the integrity of God's house. He was angered by what mattered most: worship, prayer, and a genuine relationship with God. This was being distorted by greed and exploitation.

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to carry that same kind of passion for what matters to God. At times, that means standing for what is right, confronting injustice, or speaking truth in situations that dishonor Him. Righteous anger should move us to act; but always through love, and always with the goal of restoring what is broken.

It's easy to become frustrated over personal inconveniences or everyday issues, but righteous anger is different; it shifts our focus to God's will and His glory. It means learning to see situations from God's perspective and being stirred to action when something goes against His heart.

REFLECT

Do you carry a passion for the things that matter most to God? Is there something in your life or in the world around you that dishonors Him and stirs something within you? Take time today to consider what moves you to act. If you sense injustice or brokenness, ask God to help you direct that anger in a way that brings restoration and reflects His glory.

PRAYER

God, thank You for showing me what righteous anger looks like through Jesus in the temple. I want to care deeply about what matters to You. Help me to see through Your perspective and to value what You value. Give me courage to respond when I see injustice, and guide me to do so in a way that reflects Your love and holiness. Shape my heart to stand up for what's right and see You bring restoration in place of brokenness. Amen.