

## *Cleansing the Temple*

The Lakefront Church and First Baptist Church - Venice, Florida

One Church - Two Locations

April 13, 2025

***Luke 19:29-45 (CSB) As He approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, He sent two of the disciples<sup>30</sup> and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it."<sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say this: "The Lord needs it." ...<sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it.<sup>36</sup> As He was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road.<sup>37</sup> Now He came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen:<sup>38</sup> Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told Him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."<sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."<sup>41</sup> As He approached and saw the city, He wept for it,***

- ***Leviticus 23.40***

***<sup>45</sup>He went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling,<sup>46</sup> and he said, "It is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!"***

The Temple was to be a Holy Place where people would come for repentance, worship, and celebrate the goodness of God. The corrupt priests had turned it into a pit of deceit.

***2 Kings 22:1 (CSB) Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ...<sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the Lord's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left.<sup>8</sup> The high priest Hilkiah told the court secretary Shaphan, "I have found the book of the law in the Lord's temple,"<sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.***

1. King Josiah gathered all the people to the Temple and read out loud the words of God's Law.

***2 Kings 23<sup>2</sup> Then the king went to the Lord's temple with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets—all the people from the youngest to the oldest. He read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the Lord's temple.***

## 2. Clean out all material that is not found in God's Word

*<sup>4</sup> Then the king commanded the high priest Hilkiah...to bring out of the Lord's sanctuary all the articles made for Baal, Asherah,*

3. Remove all religious leaders who are teaching anything that is against God's Law. These religious leaders were ungodly, immoral, practiced astrology, promoted sex outside marriage,

*<sup>5</sup> Then he did away with the idolatrous priests the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense ...<sup>6</sup>He brought out the Asherah pole from the Lord's temple<sup>7</sup>He also tore down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the Lord's temple, in which the women were weaving tapestries for Asherah.*

## 4. Return to Worship

*2 Kings 23:21-23 (CSB) The king commanded all the people, "Observe the Passover of the Lord your God as written in the book of the covenant."<sup>22</sup>No such Passover had ever been observed from the time of the judges who judged Israel through the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah.<sup>23</sup>But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the Lord's Passover was observed in Jerusalem.*

History repeats itself because people refuse to look at history. satan's tactics are repetitive.

1. Ignore God's Word - lost in the silver of the temple collections.
2. Fill the mind with superstition, fortune tellers, horoscopes, good luck charms, and popular self-help authors.
3. Put men and women in the pulpit who teach their own form of Godliness; prosperity teachers/preachers who twist and distort God's Word for their own personal gain.
4. Make aberrant sexual behavior conventional. Treat homosexuality and transgender as normal behavior while slandering, demonizing, and outlawing those who say otherwise!
  - Call men, women, and let them compete in women's sports.
  - Get government-sanctioned health professionals to surgically mutilate confused children.
5. Stop being grateful to God for His faithfulness and blessings.

We need to cleanse our "temple". 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:18

