

My House Shall be Called a House of Prayer

Mark 11:15-25

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. Last week we saw the false coronation of the one true king.
- b. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he did so as the coming Messiah that had been long awaited.
- c. The people's expectation of messianic deliverance from their enemies was an incomplete understanding of the office of Messiah.
 - i. They were yelling Hosanna, a joyous petition of deliverance but the deliverance they sought was only temporal and not eternal.
- d. Jesus immediately behaves in a manner contrary to the messianic expectation of the people.
 - i. He goes into the temple and takes note of the evil practices happening in the name of true worship.
 - ii. Judaism is corrupted and the temple worship is in shambles.
- e. Jesus leaves and in the morning as he is coming to Jerusalem Jesus curses a fig tree that is leafing as if it were fruiting but when he comes near he finds that the leafing is a deceptive show.
 - i. This is equivalent to what was happening in Jerusalem at the temple.

2. Verses 15-16 – corrupted worship

- a. Christ enters the temple with authority.
 - i. The temple is supposed to be dedicated to the purposes that the Father had ordained.
 - ii. Instead, in the name of the Father, the priesthood, sellers, and money changers had found a way to make money out of the worship of God.
 - iii. This is not unlike today.
 1. **2 Corinthians 11:13-14** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- b. Boldness of Jesus –

- i. He began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple,
- ii. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.
- iii. He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

3. Verse 17 – Prayer’s priority

a. The purpose of the actions was to teach the people the true intent of the house of God.

i. The purpose of the house of God is prayer –

1. Nothing else can trump the express purpose of prayer.

b. Prayer:

i. Frequency:

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** pray without ceasing,

ii. **Quotes:**

1. “Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.” ~ **John Bunyan**

2. “You may as soon find a living man that does not breath, as a living Christian that does not pray.” ~ **Matthew Henry**

c. They had converted the Father’s house into something so remotely different that the Son was offended by what he saw

4. Verse 18 –

a. Christ commitment to what is true causes opposition unto death.

b. Astonished multitude.

5. Verses 19-21 – withered tree

a. The tree is withered and the disciples are amazed.

i. It withered up from the roots – no hope of ever growing again.

b. They cannot believe what they have seen and heard in the last few days.

i. This tree becomes the example of spiritualism apart from God.

ii. Of Fruitlessness while making a show of fruitfulness.

- iii. Of abandonment of the purpose for which God created or established.
 - c. What God opposes dies and cannot be maintained.
 - i. God determines what worship/prayer is and when it is valid.
 - ii.
- 6. Verses 22-24 – Faith in prayer
 - a. A key component in prayer is faith.
 - b. Not just a made up faith but the faith that is explained in Scripture that comes through Jesus Christ:
 - i. **John 14:12-14** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (13) Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.
 - c. Not a selfish faith –
 - i. **James 4:3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
 - ii. **Philippians 1:3** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
 - iii. **Ephesians 6:18-19** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (19) and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,
- 7. Verse 25 – forgiving that my prayers might be heard
 - a. Prayer is invalidated when the heart that is praying harbors animosity, bitterness, unforgiveness
- 8. A further note on prayer –
 - a. This lesson on prayer and the purpose of the Father’s house extends to more than Jerusalem and the temple.
 - b. God is not looking at a building but the individual Christian as part of the church of God.
 - i. **John 4:20-24** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." (21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. (22) You worship what you do not

know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- ii. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- c. That does not mean I can be a Lone Ranger Christian
 - i. **Hebrews 10:23-25** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 - ii. **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- d. Your purpose is to praise God through prayer.

9. Benediction:

- a. **Philippians 4:6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.