



## Lesson 53 – The Temple Cleansed Again

Based on Matthew 21:12-16, 23-46; Mark 11:15-19, 27-33; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 19:45-48; Luke 20:1-19.

- 1) What had Jesus done at the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover after He was anointed?

**John 2:14-16** And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a \_\_\_\_\_ of small cords, he \_\_\_\_\_ them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of \_\_\_\_\_.

At the beginning of His ministry, Christ had driven from the temple those who defiled it by their unholy traffic; and His stern and godlike demeanor had struck terror to the hearts of the scheming traders.

- 2) What Samuel say under the direction of the Holy Spirit?

**1 Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great \_\_\_\_\_ in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to \_\_\_\_\_ is better than \_\_\_\_\_, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

- 3) What did Isaiah have to say about it?

**Isaiah 1:11,16-7** To what purpose is the multitude of your \_\_\_\_\_ unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats...Wash you, make you clean; put away the \_\_\_\_\_ of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do \_\_\_\_\_; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Jesus looked upon the innocent victims of sacrifice and saw how the Jews had made these great convocations scenes of bloodshed and cruelty. In place of humble repentance of sin, they had multiplied the sacrifice of beasts, as if God could be honored by a heartless service. The priests and rulers had hardened their hearts through selfishness and avarice. The very symbols pointing to the Lamb of God they had made a means of getting gain.

- 4) What did Jesus do in the last week before Calvary before the Passover?

**Mark 11:15-16** And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and \_\_\_\_\_ the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, the piercing look of Jesus swept over the desecrated court of the temple. All eyes were turned toward Him. Priest and ruler, Pharisee and Gentile, looked with astonishment and awe upon Him who stood before them with the majesty of heaven's King. Divinity flashed through humanity, investing Christ with a dignity and glory He had never manifested before. Those standing nearest Him drew as far away as the crowd would permit. Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone. Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable.

- 5) What did Jesus say to the onlooking crowd?

**Luke 19:46** Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of \_\_\_\_\_: but ye have made it a den of \_\_\_\_\_.



Christ spoke with a power that swayed the people like a mighty tempest. His voice sounded like a trumpet through the temple. The displeasure of His countenance seemed like consuming fire.

Three years before, the rulers of the temple had been ashamed of their flight before the command of Jesus. They had since wondered at their own fears, and their unquestioning obedience to a single humble Man. They had felt that it was impossible for their undignified surrender to be repeated. Yet they were now more terrified than before, and in greater haste to obey His command. There were none who dared question His authority.

6) What was the scene at the Temple like for a short time after?

**Luke 19:47-48** And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to \_\_\_\_\_ him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very \_\_\_\_\_ to hear him.

On the way from the temple, they were met by a throng who came with their sick inquiring for the Great Healer. The report given by the fleeing people caused some of these to turn back. They feared to meet One so powerful, whose very look had driven the priests and rulers from His presence. But a large number pressed through the hurrying crowd, eager to reach Him who was their only hope. When the multitude fled from the temple, many had remained behind. These were now joined by the newcomers. Again, the temple court was filled by the sick and the dying, and once more Jesus ministered to them.

7) What Scriptures were repeated as Jesus did His work?

**Psalms 118:26** \_\_\_\_\_ be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy \_\_\_\_\_ cometh unto thee: he is just, and having \_\_\_\_\_; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

After a season the priests and rulers ventured back to the temple. When the panic had abated, they were seized with anxiety to know what would be the next movement of Jesus. They expected Him to take the throne of David. Quietly returning to the temple, they heard the voices of men, women, and children praising God. Upon entering, they stood transfixed before the wonderful scene. They saw the sick healed, the blind restored to sight, and deaf receive their hearing, and the crippled leap for joy. The children were foremost in the rejoicing.

8) What did the Priests and Rulers ask Jesus?

**Matthew 21:15-16** And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore \_\_\_\_\_, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected \_\_\_\_\_?

Prophecy had foretold that Christ should be proclaimed as king, and that Word must be fulfilled. The priests and rulers of Israel refused to herald His glory, and God moved upon the children to be His witnesses. Had the voices of the children been silent, the very pillars of the temple would have sounded the Saviour's praise.



9) What did the Chief Priest and the Scribes ask Jesus?

**Luke 20:1-2** And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the \_\_\_\_\_, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what \_\_\_\_\_ doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

Three years before, they had demanded a sign of His Messiahship. Since that time, He had wrought mighty works throughout the land. He had healed the sick, miraculously fed thousands of people, walked upon the waves, and spoken peace to the troubled sea. He had repeatedly read the hearts of men as an open book; He had cast out demons and raised the dead. The rulers had before them the evidences of His Messiahship. They now decided to demand no sign of His authority, but to draw out some admission or declaration by which He might be condemned.

10) Did Jesus answer their question?

**Luke 20:3-4** And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from \_\_\_\_\_, or of \_\_\_\_\_?

With intense interest the multitude awaited the decision. They knew that the priests had professed to accept the ministry of John, and they expected them to acknowledge without a question that he was sent from God.

11) What did they tell Jesus before the waiting crowd?

**Luke 20:7** And they answered, that they \_\_\_\_\_ tell whence it was.

12) How did Jesus reply to their cowardice?

**Luke 20:8** And Jesus said unto them, Neither \_\_\_\_\_ you by what authority I do these things.

Scribes, priests, and rulers were all silenced. Baffled and disappointed, they stood with lowering brows, not daring to press further questions upon Christ. By their cowardice and indecision, they had in a great measure forfeited the respect of the people, who now stood by, amused to see these proud, self-righteous men defeated.

The scene in the temple court was never to fade from their minds. The contrast between Jesus and the high priest as they talked together was marked. The proud dignitary of the temple was clothed in rich and costly garments. Upon his head was a glittering tiara. His bearing was majestic; his hair and his long flowing beard were silvered by age. His appearance awed the beholders. Before this august personage stood the Majesty of heaven, without adornment or display. His garments were travel stained; His face was pale and expressed a patient sadness; yet written there were dignity and benevolence that contrasted strangely with the proud, self-confident, and angry air of the high priest.

13) How did Jesus follow up with this confrontation?

**Matthew 21:28-30** But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I \_\_\_\_\_: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and \_\_\_\_\_.



14) What question followed?

**Matthew 21:31-32** Whether of them twain did the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots \_\_\_\_\_ him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

The priests and rulers were unwilling to bear these searching truths; they remained silent, however, hoping that Jesus would say something which they could turn against Him; but they had still more to bear.

Jesus laid out another parable, the parable of the householder with a vineyard. How the husbandman misused and beat the servants. Even to the killing of the householder's son.

15) What question did Jesus lay on the Priests about that?

**Matthew 21:40** When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he \_\_\_\_\_ unto those husbandmen?

16) What was their reply?

**Matthew 21:41** They say unto him, He will miserably \_\_\_\_\_ those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto \_\_\_\_\_ husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

17) Jesus replied:

**Matthew 21:42-44** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The \_\_\_\_\_ which the builders \_\_\_\_\_, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this \_\_\_\_\_ shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to \_\_\_\_\_.

18) What does Scripture tell us how they reacted?

**Matthew 21:45-46** And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of \_\_\_\_\_. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the \_\_\_\_\_, because they took him for a prophet.

The speakers had not at first perceived the application of the parable, but they now saw that they had pronounced their own condemnation. In the parable the householder represented God, the vineyard the Jewish nation, and the hedge the divine law which was their protection. The tower was a symbol of the temple. The lord of the vineyard had done everything needful for its prosperity.

19) What promise was about to be fulfilled in their presence?

**Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a \_\_\_\_\_, a tried stone, a precious \_\_\_\_\_ stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

The entire world may lay upon it their burdens and griefs; it can endure them all. With perfect safety they may build upon it. Christ is a **"tried stone."** Those who trust in Him, He never disappoints. He has borne every test. He has endured the pressure of Adam's guilt, and the guilt of his posterity, and has come off more than conqueror of the powers of evil. He has borne the burdens cast upon Him by every repenting sinner.

Can you see God won't suffer sin forever?

Would you like to be free from it's grip?

When is the time to listen to God's pleadings?