

## Sprucing Up the Temple

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The Final week of Jesus' ministry begins with His triumphant entry (Palm Sunday) ends with Resurrection (Easter). Immediately following His entry, Jesus is in the Temple: Cleansing it!

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. <sup>13</sup> "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.'"

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

<sup>16</sup> "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

"'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

<sup>17</sup> And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

This moment is often pointed to as proof of Jesus' humanity! But to see the cleansing only in those terms robs us of a critical dimension of God's, Jesus', our Story. Without grasping Temple, we run the risk of mis-telling God's story & missing key cues of God's will!

**Temple is the place where \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ converge or overlap.**

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

<sup>20</sup> They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup> **But the temple he had spoken of was his body.** <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John 2:18-22

Temple was not primarily a Sacred Retreat from the World but a Sacred Beachhead into it!

**The Rebuilt Temple began as the \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_!**

As you come to him, **the living Stone**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> **you also, like living stones**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

<sup>8</sup> and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:4-10

**As we SEE Temple as it truly is, we can SEE other dimensions of God's story more clearly:**

- **Baptism: God's promised meeting place**

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Galatians 3:26-27

- **Great Commission: creating a world of living stones**

- **Dealing with Sin:**

"Do you not know that **your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?** You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- **Reconciled to Reconcile:**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation..." 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

**Jesus cleansed the Temple because it became a \_\_\_\_\_ of it's True Purpose.**

"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.'" Matthew 21:13

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by:

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