



EXPERIENCING THE ABUNDANT LIFE: JOHN 2
“THE TEMPLE OF GOD”
JOHN 2: 13-17

AFTER THE WEDDING AT CANA, JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES NOW COME TO JERUSALEM TO CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER, WHICH WAS THE GREATEST OF ALL JEWISH FEASTS. SINCE THE JEWISH PILGRIMS ARRIVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THEY CARRIED WITH THEM ALL KINDS OF COINS. THE JEWS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY A TEMPLE TAX, PLUS THEY NEEDED TO PURCHASE AN ANIMAL FOR A SACRIFICE WHILE THEY WERE THERE. THEIR COINS, WITH PAGAN IMAGES ON THEM, COULD NOT BE USED TO PAY A DEBT TO GOD. THEREFORE, CERTAIN MERCHANTS WERE CALLED “MONEY-CHANGERS” AND THEY EXCHANGED THEIR COINS FOR ACCEPTABLE JEWISH COINS. THE MONEY-CHANGERS AND THE ANIMAL SELLERS WERE CHARGING EXHORBITANT PRICES FOR THEIR SERVICES. IN HIS RIGHTEOUS ANGER, JESUS OVERTURNED THEIR TABLES BECAUSE THEY WERE MISUSING THE TEMPLE OF GOD. WHAT THEN, IS THE TEACHING OF THIS STORY?

OUR SOULS ARE TEMPLES INTO WHICH OUR LORD COMES TO DWELL

CHRISTIAN SALVATION MEANS MORE THAN JUST THE FACT THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN, MORE THAN JUST KNOWING THAT WHEN WE DIE WE WILL GO TO HEAVEN, MORE THAN JUST KNOWING THAT WE HAVE A NEW NATURE; IT OFFERS US SOMETHING EVEN BEYOND ALL OF THOSE THINGS. OUR SALVATION MEANS THAT NOTHING LESS THAN THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF HAS COME TO INDWELL US! THAT IS THE FULLNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE---THAT IS THE ABUNDANT LIFE. GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE IS THAT HE SHOULD DWELL IN MEN AND WOMEN.

WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF OUR TEMPLES?

HERE WE SEE THE RELEVANCE TO US OF THIS INCIDENT IN THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM. HERE JESUS FINDS GOD’S HOUSE BEING ABUSED. INSTEAD OF IT BEING A HOUSE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP, AS IT OUGHT TO BE, THESE MEN WERE USING THE TEMPLE TO SERVE THEIR OWN SELFISH ENDS. OTHER THINGS HAD BECOME MORE IMPORTANT. ALL OF THIS BUYING AND SELLING HAD BECOME DISRUPTIVE TO THE TEMPLE WORSHIP. IS THERE ANYTHING DISRUPTING OUR WORSHIP IN OUR LIFE, OUR TEMPLE? JESUS NEEDS TO CLEAN IT OUT; OUR BODIES NEED TO BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP. THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING IN OUR LIVES WHICH DISRUPTS OUR WORSHIP AND PRAYER, AND LIKEWISE, THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING IN OUR LIVES WHICH DISRUPTS SOMEONE ELSE’S DESIRE TO WORSHIP AND PRAY.

APPLICATION

WE ARE CALLED UPON TO EXAMINE THE CONDITION OF OUR OWN TEMPLES, OUR OWN SOULS. WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF OUR SOUL AS THE LORD EXAMINES IT THIS MORNING? WHAT DOES HE SEE? WHAT DOES JESUS NEED TO “OVERTURN” IN OUR LIFE TODAY?

Verse for the week: “A wise man holds his tongue. Only a fool blurts out everything he knows: that only leads to sorrow and trouble.” (Prov. 10:14)

Thought for the week: Conceit is the most incurable disease that is known to the human soul. Great braggers are small doers.