

Purging the Perverted Temple

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 21.

B. Through the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus gives a clear presentation of his credentials.

II. He was on a divine mission from God. (John 2:13-17)

A. Jesus was concerned with how people related to God, not their relationship to earthly kingdoms.

B. After three years Jesus returns to the temple again.

C. The world needed a reformer, but relationship with God comes first. (1 Peter 4:17)

D. Worship is always the issue. (Romans 1)

E. He came to the temple to vindicate the holiness of God.

F. He came to throw out corrupt worship and bring in true worship.

III. He has divine authority. The people responded in fear at the temple--they saw Jesus' divine power.

IV. He revealed a commitment to divine Scripture. (Isaiah 56:7)

A. Jesus was always consistent with the Word of God.

B. The Temple had been made a cave of robbers. (Jeremiah 7:11)

V. He showed the divine compassion of the Messiah. (Matthew 11)

VI. He showed divine power through healing.

VII. He accepted divine worship. Jesus will get the praise no matter what. (Psalm 8:2, Luke 19:40)

VIII. He was rejected. There comes a time when God's Spirit will no longer strive with man.

Application Questions:

1. What characteristics of Jesus were displayed at the Temple cleansing that the world often neglects about Jesus?

2. How does the Temple cleansing show compassion?

3. How does the Temple cleansing give us a picture of how Jesus will come again?
