

# Jesus Clears the Temple<sup>1</sup>

Matthew 21:1-14

October 17, 2021

**Focus:** You and I are the Temple of God. As Christ followers Christ “indwells” you and I. We are God’s dwelling place. What kind of “temple” is He living in?

God, to this point, has lived in a series of different “houses” if you will.

## Houses:

### Primary House

God’s first dwelling was in Adam. God made Adam and dwelt with him, but Adam and Eve sinned. That put a barrier between Adam and Eve today and is the same thing (sin) that puts a barrier between us and God.

### Pattern House

A temple was called the “House of God” and this also includes the Tabernacle. Like Adam, it was a house of three rooms, body, soul and spirit. The Temple was a house of three rooms, outer room, outer court and Holy of Holies. God’s presence was there.

### Perfect House

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* **John 1:14**

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

### Permanent House

*Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.* **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.* **1 Corinthians 3:16**

This permanent house includes body, mind and spirit. As a Believer, God dwells in us.

**God’s house is used to bring glory and honor to Himself and sometimes He needs to clean house.**

## 1) **The Profaning of the Temple.**

The people in our passage today were using God’s dwelling for ungodly purposes. What started out as an actual service to the people became a business of sorts.

They were seeking to use God’s dwelling place for personal gain.

Remember, you and I are God’s dwelling place, how are we using His dwelling place?

Now, what is a carnal Christian? A carnal Christian is somebody who has made his temple a den of thieves. A carnal Christian is somebody—you, madam; you, sir; you, teen, whoever you may be—that has allowed your temple to become a den of thieves. What is a thief? A thief is somebody who steals away that which belongs to God. Now, you are created to give God glory. Anything in your heart and in your life that steals away the glory that is due to the Lord Jesus Christ makes your body a den of thieves. So, the temple can be profaned—verse 12.

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<sup>1</sup> Outline from Adrian Rogers

## 2) **The Purging of the Temple.**

God lets us take a look at our heart sometimes.

What purging needs to happen in my life?

Body

Mind

Soul/Spirit - The soul and the spirit are connected, but separable ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). The soul is the essence of humanity's being; it is who we are. The spirit is the immaterial part of humanity that connects with God.<sup>2</sup>

Actions

God disciplines those He loves.

***God is far more interested in your being holy than He is your being happy.***

"He says all true sons are chastened. Now, if you're living in sin; if your so-called temple is a den of thieves; if your body, your life, is not giving glory to God, and God does not bring a whip to you, God does not bring the scourge to you, don't boast about it. You know what it's a sign of? You've never been saved. If you can live high, wide, and handsome, if you can continue in sin—if you're living in adultery right now, there's dishonesty in your life, there's profanity in your life, pornography in your life, bitterness in your heart, resentment, pride, cantankerousness—and you can go on day after day after day, and God doesn't chastise you, do you know what it means? You're lost and on the road to hell." ~ **Adrian Rogers**

## 3) **The Purpose of the Temple.**

### a. **Place of Prayer.**

*And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

**Matthew 21:13**

*<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

**Philippians 4:6**

### b. **Place of Power.**

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

**Acts 1:8**

### c. **Place of Praise**

*<sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**Matthew 5:15-16**

***Salvation is not getting man out of earth into heaven; it is getting God out of heaven into man.***

## **Prayer Focus:**

- **I would recognize I am God's Temple.**
- **I would ask the Lord does He need to do any house cleaning?**
- **I would remember I am meant for prayer, power and praise, all for God's glory.**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/soul-spirit.html>