

# Matthew 21:12-17

March 1, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

## Intro –

Ezra 5:2 - Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild *the house of God* in Jerusalem.

1 Timothy 3:15 - If I'm delayed, you'll know how people ought to conduct themselves in *God's household, which is the church of the living God*.

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## **1. The Misuse of God's House.**

v.12 - Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, “It's written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you've made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Exodus 30:13 - This is what *everyone* among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

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## **2. The Proper Use of God's House.**

v.13 - Jesus said to them, “It's written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’

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Matthew 16:18 – “On this rock I will build My church.”

## The History of the Temple.

Temple #1 – The Tabernacle

Exodus 25:8-9 – “Have them make a sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I'll show you.”

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Temple #2 – Solomon’s Temple

1 Kings 6:11-13 - The word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: “Concerning this temple which you're building... I will dwell among the children of Israel.”

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Temple #3 – Jesus

John 2:13-21 - Jesus went up to Jerusalem and in the temple courts He found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple... He told them, “Get these things out of here...” The Jews said to Him, "What sign can You show us to prove Your authority to do all this?"

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Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and I'll raise it up in three days." They replied, "It's taken 46 years to build this temple, and You're going to raise it in three days?" But He was speaking of *the temple of His body*.

## **Temple #4 – You**

**1 Corinthians 3:16** - Don't you know that *you're the temple of God* and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - Don't you know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you and you aren't your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are *God's*.

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## **#1 - Focus on prayer.**

**Jesus:** *"My house shall be called a house of prayer."*

**Christian Cheong:** *"It's easy for our lives to be cluttered with religious activities, and have these activities take the place of God in our lives. Whether we have entertaining music or lots of activities in the church aren't the key concerns. Did you meet with God? Have you spoken to Him? Did you hear Him today? Those are the key concerns."*

**Acts 1** - They all met together and were constantly united in prayer.

**Acts 2** - All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 3** - Peter and John went up to the Temple to pray.

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**Acts 4** - When they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God boldly.

Bible translator J. B. Phillips: It's impossible to spend several months in close study of [the book of Acts] without being profoundly stirred and, to be honest, disturbed. The reader is stirred because he's seeing Christianity, the real thing, in action for the first time in human history. The newborn Church, as vulnerable as any human child, having neither money, influence, or power in the ordinary sense, is setting forth joyfully and courageously to win the world for God through Christ... Yet, we can't help feeling disturbed as well, for this surely is the church as it was meant to be. These are the days before it became fat and out of breath through prosperity, or muscle-bound by over organization. These men didn't 'say their prayers,' they prayed... If they were uncomplicated and naïve by modern standards, we have to admit that they were open to God in a way that's almost unknown today.

### **#2 - Focus on healing**

**v.14** - Then *the* blind and *the* lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

**Luke 4:18** - "The Spirit of the Lord...has sent Me to *heal the broken hearted.*"

**Matthew 9:11-12** - The Pharisees asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It's not the healthy who need a *doctor*, but the sick."

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### **#3 - Focus on service.**

**v.15** - The chief priests and scribes saw *the wonderful things Jesus did...*

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## **#4 - Focus on praise**

**v.15** - When the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things Jesus did and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant. The end of **v.16** - "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected *praise*."

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## **#5 - Focus on teaching.**

**Psalm 8** - "Have you never read, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You've perfected *praise*."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Conclusion** - Jesus said, “**My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.**”

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