

Palm Sunday

April 1, 2007

“Turn!”

Matthew 21:12-17

Introduction:

Some two thousand years ago this morning Jesus entered the Temple in Jerusalem. Overturning tables, kicking the chairs of the money changers and shouting condemnation, Jesus was angry with what he found going on in the Temple. If Jesus were to return to earth today would he be similarly angry with what he found going on in our lives?

Interpretation:

Do we publicly celebrate him as King?

Do we daily honor him as Prophet?

Are we experiencing his restoration as Priest?

Application:

Going Deeper

1. How does Jesus' parable of The Wedding Banquet illustrate the importance of being willing to celebrate Jesus? (Matthew 22:1-14)
2. On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your willingness to celebrate Jesus as King? (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5,9)
3. How might you grow in your practice of publicly celebrating Jesus?
4. Jesus' prophetic actions of overturning tables and chairs and publicly condemning the leadership of the Temple is a dramatic departure from how most of us picture his ministry, but can you remember some of the other dramatic action of God's prophets? (Isaiah 20:1-6, Hosea 1:2-3, 3:15, Matthew 3:4, Matthew 21:12-17)
5. How is John's description of Christ's second coming, similar to Matthew's description of Jesus' actions in the Temple? (Matthew 21:1-17, Revelation 19:11-16)
6. Considering the Lord's critique of the seven churches listed in the book of Revelation, how might God's Prophet want to cleanse his people of sin today? (Revelation 2-3)
7. What cleansing work has the Lord done in your life recently, or do you sense he needs to do in the days ahead? (James 4:8)

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