

The Steps of Jesus – 10/08/23

Cleansing the Temple

TEXT- John 2:13-17

INTRO – Joh 2:12-13. It was the first year of our Lord's public ministry around AD 28 March 30th. Baptism by John, February 1st (about); return to Bethania, forty days later (about March 12th); Cana, March 15th; Capernaum, March 17th; Jerusalem, March 29th (14th Nisan)

Christ's first Passover

I. HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE PASSOVER

One of the three great annual festivals which all males were required to attend. None excused but the sick and the disabled.

- A. That His worship and service were the chief things.
- B. That God's house was to be the center of the moral universe, and that all nations would flow to it. Christ's attendance showed

II. THE CONDITION IN WHICH HE FOUND THE TEMPLE,

Found in the temple ... The market was going on in the outer courts of the Gentiles.

- The sheep, were sold there to save the inconvenience of individual Jews bringing their offerings from a distance.
- The money-changers were there, to exchange foreign money for the half-shekel of the sanctuary.
- Making God's house a house of merchandise.
- Christ interfered to show His authority in His own house.
- The cattle were driven out, the money-tables overthrown;
 - A. That their consciences reprov'd them for their sin
 - B. It was customary in the nation to cherish a profound regard for the authority of a prophet; and the appearance and manner of Jesus
 - C. Even then, Jesus had a wide reputation among the people, but it is not improbable that many supposed him to be the Messiah.
 - D. Jesus on all occasions had a most wonderful control over people. None could resist him.

III. THE CONVICTION IN THE MINDS OF SERVANTS Jn 2:17

- A. The love of Christ, and His earnestness for their salvation and God's glory: typical of His whole work.
- B. Christ's example to us.
 1. Our zeal must begin with ourselves.
 2. Must concern itself with God's honour and man's salvation.
 3. Must be actuated by love.

Though Jesus thus purified the temple at the commencement of his ministry, yet in three years the same scene was to be repeated. **Mat 21:12**

1. How soon people forget the most solemn reproofs, and return to evil practices.
2. In the very temple, under the very eye of God, these people soon returned to practices for which their consciences reprov'd them, and which they knew that God disapproved.
3. How strong is the love of gain - the ruling passion of mankind. Not even the sacredness of the temple, the presence of God, the awful ceremonials of religion, deterred them from this ungodly sin.

Wicked men and hypocrites will always turn "religion," if possible, into gain; and not even the sanctuary, the Sabbath, or the most awful and sacred scenes, will deter them from schemes of gain.

Amos 8:5 *Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?*

III. The Judgment of God

John 2:15

A scourge - A whip.

Of small cords - This whip was made for the purpose of driving from the temple the cattle which had been brought there for sale.

It was written ... - Psalms 69:9 *For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*

The zeal of thine house - "Zeal" is an intense reference to any object. The "zeal of thine house" means extraordinary concern for the temple of God;

Hath eaten me up - Hath absorbed me, or engaged my entire attention and affection; Here is an example set for ministers and for all Christians. In Jesus this was the great commanding sentiment of his life. In us it should be also. In this manifestation of zeal he began and ended his ministry. In this we should begin and end our lives.

They believed - That is, "after" he rose from the dead.

The scripture - The Old Testament, which predicted his resurrection.

Reference here must be made to [Psa 16:10](#); compare [Act 2:27-32](#); [Act 13:35-37](#); [Psa 2:7](#); compare [Act 13:33](#).

He knew what was in man - This he did because he had made all [Joh 1:3](#), and because he was God, [Joh 1:1](#). There can be no higher evidence than this that he was omniscient, and was therefore divine. To search the heart is the prerogative of God alone [Jer 17:10](#); and as Jesus knew what was in "these disciples," and as it is expressly said that he knew what was in man - that is, in "all people" - so it follows that he must be equal with God.

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