



Jesus Cleansed The Temple

Sermon #4 John 2:13-25

Temple Worship in Jesus' Time



- King Herod was trying to gain favor from the Jews by rebuilding the temple (self motive)
- However, the temple is a place of **worship** (Psalm 5:7) and **proclaiming** God and His Words (Psalm 138:1-2)
- **Praising** God—singing and testifying to God (Neh. 10:28)
- **Prayer** to God—seeking God and giving thanks (Psa. 27:4)
- **Practicing sacrifice**—we no longer need a place for that since Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1)
- Note: we are the temple now (1 Cor. 6:19-20) How do we worship God as we gather?

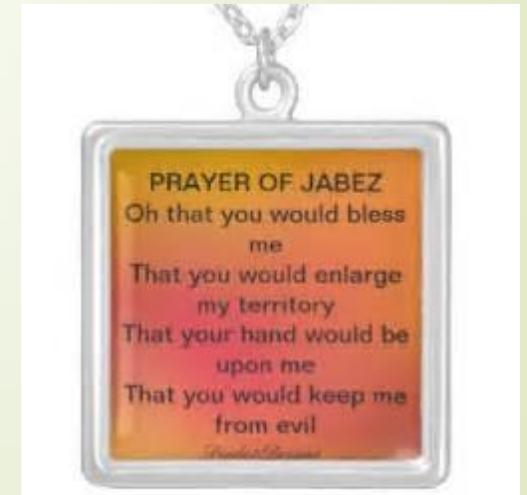
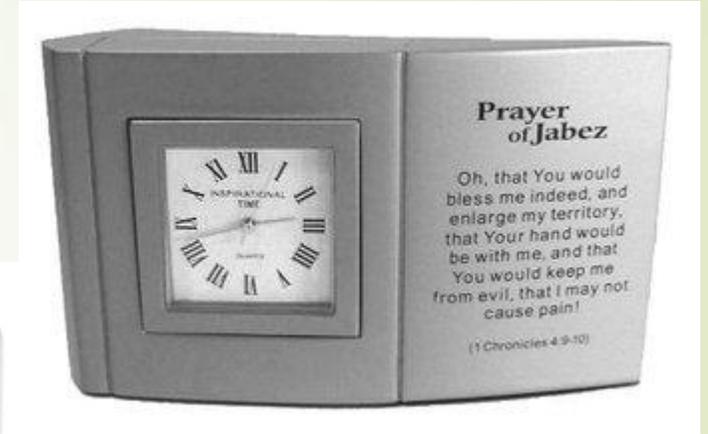
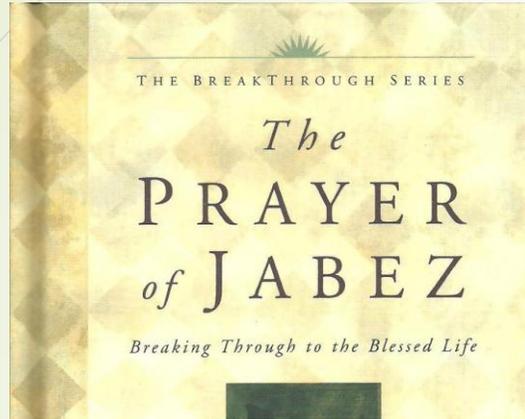
Jesus Cares About Why We Worship



- In John, Jesus called the temple “a **house of trade**” (John 2:16)
- 3 years later, Jesus even called it a “den of **robbers**” (Matt. 21:13). These must not be honest dealings
- Both the merchants and the priests was guilty
- There is nothing wrong with trade itself. (ill: money exchange) The problem is that they turned worship into a business opportunity
- Even more seriously, do we use the **name of God** to further our personal gain? And even dishonest gain?

Sadly these things happen all the time...

Remember
this?



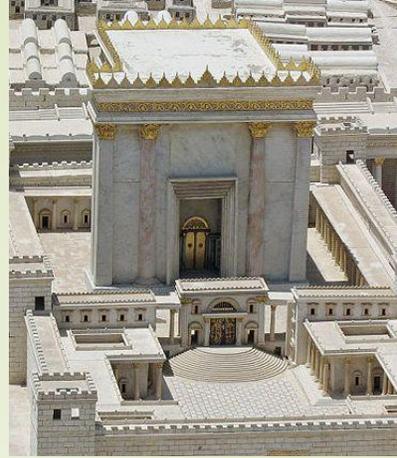


Nothing New Under the Sun

- The temple had become a place of **gratifying of self** instead of **honoring God** (ill: Herod & the priest)
- Many are still on the same path, some would even stop halfway in the sermon...
- This is just ridiculous, (i.e. back) to a point it is almost funny (but it is not)
- These are not just slick business...they are **using people's love of God** for their own gain.

You are Now God's Temple

- In a personal level, why are we gathered here to worship? And how do we worship God?
- Are we here to **honor God** or to **gratify self**? (ill: offerings)
- Are we here **singing to God** or just **enjoying good music** to makes me feel better?
- Are we here to **notice others in need** or to **be noticed by others**?
- Are we here **giving back to God** what he has blessed us with or to **get something else from God**?
- What other motives would people have in worship?



- Matt 6:33—the problem is that often we are **seeking the wrong thing**. What are you seeking before God?
- John 2:16—Jesus was reminding them this is God's house. It is foolish for us to **approach God** (God's house) and to **seek some thing else**
- He will **remind you** too...and may not be a gentle affair
- Note: He was angry, but His anger was in control. Not a moment did Jesus “lose it” (i.e. pigeons, sheep, money changers) (Eph. 4:26)
- God may be **angry** with what you did, but His **steadfast love** for you is perfect and eternal. (Psa. 106:1) It is time for you to embrace Him today.

