



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

BIBLE JOURNEYS – NT Volume 1 JESUS IS LORD

#6 CLEANSING THE TEMPLE *John 2:12-25*



GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

WHEN JESUS CAME INTO THIS VESSEL,
HE TOOK MY DEATH AND GAVE ME LIFE,
AND HE FILLED ME WITH LIVING WATER,
TO SAVE ME FROM HELL AND STRIFE.
NOW AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT,
I WANT TO KEEP HIS TEMPLE CLEAN,
SO THIS ORDINARY VESSEL
CAN BECOME EXTRAORDINARY FOR HIM!

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Psalms 24:3-5 “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

1. INTRODUCTION: Jesus filled us with Living Water and made us into the Temple of the Living God, so with grateful hearts, it is a small thing to live our lives for God, and keep his Temple clean!

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’ | |
| 2. Children’s Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. JESUS FILLS HIS VESSELS WITH LIVING WATER TO TURN ORDINARY LIVES INTO EXTRAORDINARY.

Last week we left Jesus and his disciples at the wedding in Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle, saving the honor of the bride's father and family by turning the water into wine. Jesus wants to save your honor! He performs miracles every day by giving us beauty for our ashes, exchanging sadness for contentment and joy!

Isaiah 61:3 "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."



Whether it was God's children who lived in times of old, or if you are a child of God living today, God wants his children to understand why in times past he required ridged adherence to laws written by Moses into a book kept beside the 10 Commandments in the Ark of God. Those additional laws in the book of Moses regarding sacrifices and washings were temporary until Jesus came to die once for all, but God still today expects His children to live by the 10 Commandments that He promised to write upon our hearts. Why?



So we will be strong trees that cannot be moved! Jesus does not want his people to plant themselves away from God's word, like a tree planted in ground that is dry. People and trees planted where it is dry can never grow up strong and healthy, but they shrivel up, or grow into a small weak tree that bears no fruit! Jesus wants us to stay planted in Him where the Living Water flows! It is those trees who are planted beside the river of God, drinking in His word because they love Him, who become a vibrant planting of the Lord, bringing honor upon their own head and glory to God!

3. GOD DESIRES SACRIFICE FROM HIS CHILDREN SO WE WILL UNDERSTAND THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON.

Jesus brought His mother and half-brothers and sisters along with Him on His journeys with His disciples, to carry the Gospel.

John 2:12 “After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.”

Remember that the Father God tabernacled in his son Jesus, who is ‘God with Us’. Jesus went into his own house expecting to see his children busy doing His works of sacrifice to minister salvation. Jesus was about to become the Lamb of God who as God, himself would shed his own blood once for all. But what did Jesus find?

John 2:13-14 “And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:”

God’s people had made God’s ministry into a business, and were missing the whole purpose of sacrifice! These people thought they were doing a good thing providing an easy way for others to purchase gifts for sacrifice right on their way to the altar, right? No! For one thing they were hawking their wares for as much profit as possible, but the bigger problem was that the whole purpose of sacrificing was for the person who sacrificed. Most do not understand that God wants our offerings to have meaning for us.



The animal was to be taken from their own flock at home, and was given to God, with great meaning to He who gave all He had for us. As hands were laid upon the head of his own dear friend, a man would ‘get it’ that this animal did nothing wrong to be slain for him, and the sacrifice was given from a broken heart, with tears. Offerings bought with a toss of a coin on the way to the altar were meaningless.

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

4. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US TO FORCEFULLY DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO CLEAN GOD’S HOUSE.

Next something happens that is quite surprising for the Lord Jesus who was pure of heart and mild mannered, he forcefully threw all the people who made a business of religion, out of God’s house!

John 2:15-16 “And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables; ¹⁶And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.”

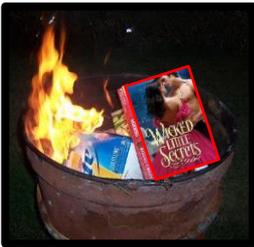


Why was Jesus so angry with those who misunderstood the purpose of God’s Temple? It was prophesied hundreds of years before His birth, that the Messiah would be consumed with zeal for God’s word and His house, and **be grieved by those who forget His words.**

Psalms 119:139 “My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.”

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.”

I think it could be safely said that Jesus reacted violently to sin in the house of God, as should we. Really? Yes, we are to forcefully remove sin from our hearts, from our churches, and from our homes!



Matthew 11:12 “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Whatever it takes to cleanse your Temple, **go through your home and destroy every trace of sin against health, heart, and holiness, that grieves the Holy Spirit of God** – do it for the love of Jesus!

5. EVERY UNHOLY THING WE ALLOW TO COME INTO OUR TEMPLE, CREATES A MUDDY FILTER THAT DIMS THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST FROM OUR VIEW.

John 7:11 “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

God showed his anger toward his own people who were defiling the Temple of the living God. Jesus loved them, and he loves you! But he does not want sin in his Temple, for in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:4-6 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

When you bring the darkness of sin into God’s Temple, his Temple is defiled, and you are robbed of the joy God had waiting for you! Jesus wants you to know him, but you cannot see clearly to know Jesus, if you are looking through a heart all messed up with sin!

OBJECT LESSON:

(Bring spotlight with brown sin-smudged lens, Wet Wipes & 1 flashlight per person onto which you have taped the verse 1 John 1:4-7.)

(Before Church smudge brown poster paint onto lens of the spotlight so that the light is dimmed when the switch is on. Make copies of the verse and tape to flashlights you have purchased from a dollar store.)



God was angry when his people brought sin in, and told them to get all that mess out of his Temple! (Turn spotlight on.) What happened to this light? Sin must have got in here when I was careless, and dimmed the light! I don’t want icky mess to dim this light, and I don’t want the mess of sin to dim the light of Jesus in my heart! Do you? Let’s cleanse this light (Clean lens with Wet Wipes.), and cleanse our hearts from the mess of sin by confessing our sin to Jesus, then don’t bring any more sin into the temple! Amen? Here is a light for each of you, to remind us to cleanse our temple and walk in the light with Jesus!

6. AS THE TRUTH OF GOD IS REVEALED TO JESUS' DISCIPLES IN HIS WORD, WE SEE THAT HE IS THE SAME GOD YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOR EVER.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, and forever."



As the disciples watched the passion of Jesus in cleansing God's Temple, and the urgency with which He carried the Gospel, His disciples realized that He really was the God of the Torah, incarnate!

John 2:17 "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

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."

Does our heart grieve as Jesus' heart was grieved by those who bring reproach upon the name of the Lord? When we love God we will find ourselves drawn to love the things that he loves, concerned by the things that concern him, and first cleanse our own Temple, then not be afraid to address abuses in the church that need to be cleansed.

Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

We must remember that we are not Jesus and **sin is deceitful**, so God's word says that we are to strive **together** to cleanse the house!

1 Peter 4:17-18 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

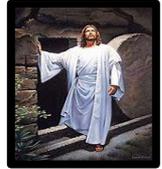
It is seriously hard work for us to be of one mind together, and we must welcome our brethren who come to us with correction!

7. THAT JESUS IS THE INVISIBLE LORD GOD MADE VISIBLE IN FLESH, IS THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.

*Isaiah 43:10-11 “Ye are my witnesses, saieth the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that **I AM HE**: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. ¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”*

Jesus spoke as both Father and Servant, saying that he is the only God, with no other God to come before or after, claiming **I AM HE**. Jesus would give **ONLY ONE SIGN to prove that he is GOD:**

John 2:18-19 “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”



The disciples thought Jesus was referring to the temple King Herod was building and didn't know Jesus was talking about his own body.

John 2:20-21 “Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? ²¹ But he spake of the temple of his body.”

*Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be **THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH.**”*

The only sign Jesus said he would give to show he is God, was that **he would raise up the temple of his own body** from the grave!

John 14:10 “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”

Jesus in this passage, claims to be the Father God of Spirit, dwelling in his Son. Later Jesus repeated his words of Isaiah 43 to warn His disciples that they must believe that **he is the “I AM HE”**.

*John 8:24 & 27 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I AM HE**, ye shall die in your sins...²⁷ They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.”*

Our salvation hinges upon receiving the Jesus Christ who is GOD.

8. WE HONOR JESUS BY CLEANSING HIS TEMPLE OF ANTI-CHRIST DOCTRINE, SIN, AND EVERY FALSE WAY.

2 John 1:9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

The Doctrine of Christ says Jesus is fully the Father God of Spirit, incarnate in the Son; there is no other God. Jesus said the anti-Christ was already at work, so we should not be surprised when we hear anti-Christ doctrine teaching that Jesus is not who he claimed to be.

1 John 4:3 “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

Jesus told his disciples that he was God incarnate, that he would be crucified, and raise his own body from the tomb after 3 days and 3 nights; but only after he rose on the 3rd day, did they understand.

John 2:22-25 “When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.”²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.²⁴ But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,²⁵ And **needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.**”

Jesus did not need anyone to testify of him at the feast, because Jesus knew who he was! Jesus knew he was the Spirit of God incarnate – both fully GOD and fully man - **that is why the Pharisees wanted to stone him!** They all knew that **the only God said he was coming as Savior;** and this is the meaning of his name - Jesus Christ!

1 John 2:23 “Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.”

Someone with an anti-Christ spirit, is unable to say “Jesus is LORD”, meaning that Jesus is GOD in the Son. **It is only those who receive the Son as the only God incarnate, who have the Father also.**



9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME.

1. Jesus made me into the Temple of God, so it is a small thing to keep myself clean and unspotted from the world until He comes again.
2. Jesus fills His vessels with living water to turn ordinary lives into extraordinary!
3. God desires sacrifice from his children from a broken heart, so that we will come to understand the heart of His sacrifice for us.
4. Jesus set the example for us, that we are to forcefully do whatever is necessary to clean god's house.
5. Every unholy thing we allow to come into our temple, creates a muddy filter that dims the light of Jesus Christ from our view.
6. Jesus is the same God yesterday, today, and for ever.
7. That Jesus is the only Lord God made visible in flesh, was crucified & buried in the belly of the earth for 3 days & 3 nights like Jonah, and rose on the 3rd day, is the Doctrine of Christ
8. Correct one another with encouragement daily, while it is called today.
9. We honor Jesus by cleansing his temple of anti-Christ doctrine, sin, and every false way.
10. Cleanse God's temple and be ready, because Jesus is coming soon!

Our Dear Father, thank you for loving us and keeping us safe by your word that reveals to us who you are in our LORD Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and we worship you. Forgive us Lord Jesus, for letting unclean thoughts and



false ways come in through things we watch and hear, that dim the amazing light of your love that shines from our hearts because you live there. We purpose in our hearts today, to forcefully cleanse the temple of our hearts from every unclean thing that dishonors you, and dims your light. We pray that you will shine the light of the knowledge of who you are brightly in each one of us, that we may all be ready for your soon appearing, **in Jesus' name, Amen.**

10. CHILDREN'S STORY: Cleansing the Temple



Look at the picture of this boy, Benjamin. His mother told him to keep the living room clean because it was a very special place, but what has Benjamin done? He has come into the clean, beautiful living room with a muddy dog and muddy feet, and made a big mess! **Muddy dogs and muddy feet do not belong in a special clean place.** Now Benjamin will need to put the dog out and help his mother clean up this mess!

One day Jesus came into his temple at Jerusalem, and there were people there, who had brought in all kinds of things to sell that should not be in the temple of God! Jesus was angry at them because they had turned God's holy house, into just a shopping place for themselves to make money! Those people had sinned because they did not honor God. Jesus drove them out so his house would be a holy place for prayer again.

Does Jesus live in your heart? I am so happy to hear that he does! When we confess our sins and ask Jesus to come into our hearts, he forgives us, and now you are a temple of God's Holy Spirit! **The mess of sin does not belong in a clean holy heart!** But if we make a mistake, Jesus washes away all the mess of sin, and makes our hearts clean and white as snow!

1 Corinthians 3:16 *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*

When Jesus lives in your heart it becomes a holy place where his light shines brightly, and shines out to others who need his love too! Mean and sinful thoughts do not belong in a clean heart! It is like trying to see a light shining through a muddy window - you can't see the light shine unless you wash it! I want to keep the temple of my heart clean for Jesus, don't you?

Let's keep our hearts clean by confessing our sins to God, and every morning when we wake up, let's talk to Jesus so his light will shine through you and me, and shine out to others who need his love too!

11. GOSPEL CRAFT: CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

DIRECTIONS:

1. Make a color copy for each person (do not enlarge).
2. Cut out the Word Strip
3. Glue the Word Strip to the flashlight.
4. Cover with clear packing tape.
5. Add sparkly jewels
6. Cleanse your Temple.
7. Shine your light for Jesus!

Here is a flashlight for each one of you to remind you to keep your temple clean and shine your light for Jesus! And you can make it sparkle with jewels to so it will be even more special. Look at what your light says:

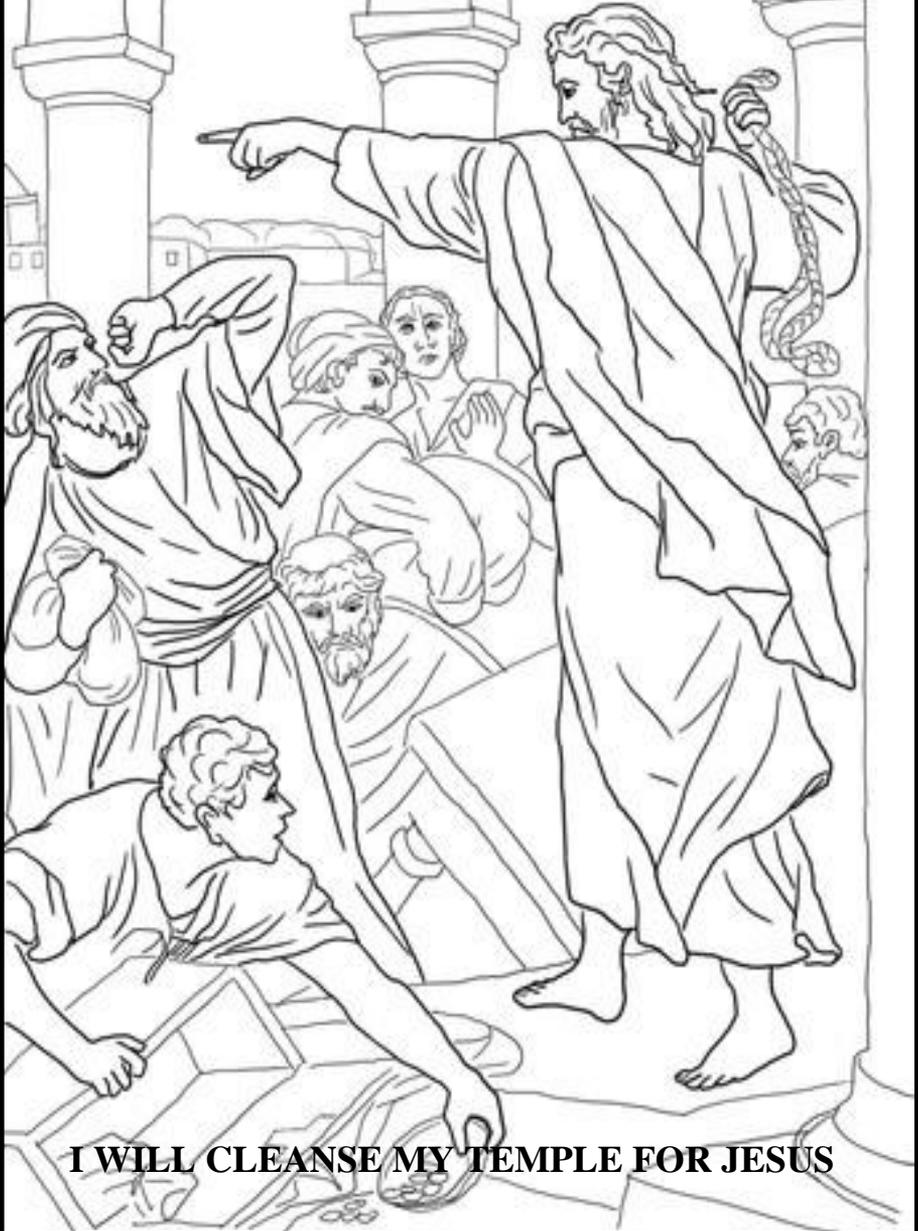
**With Jesus living in my heart, I want to keep his temple clean;
Every morning at the very start, I will shine my light for him!**

**WITH JESUS LIVING IN MY HEART
I WANT TO KEEP HIS TEMPLE CLEAN;
EVERY MORNING AT THE VERY START
I WILL SHINE MY LIGHT FOR HIM!**



12. COLORING PAGE: JESUS CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

**JESUS WANTS HIS TEMPLE TO BE
CLEANSED FROM EVERY FALSE WAY**



I WILL CLEANSE MY TEMPLE FOR JESUS