



Introduction

The steadily rising conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders finally reaches a fever pitch. Jesus, in coming to Jerusalem, was making his Kingly (and priestly) stand. The purpose for which the Temple had long stood as a shadow/type will finally and ultimately be replaced by the real means of obtaining forgiveness and relationship with God. Jesus' "cleansing of the temple", would have been viewed as an act of judgment upon the religious system, which had failed to properly reflect God. Yet, shockingly, Jesus through this violent act was portraying what would shortly happen to His temple (body). Jesus would be whipped and torn for the undeserving nation (and world he created) as the means to save them.

Observation/Interpretation

- Why was Jesus angry when he entered the temple?
- Jesus cursed a fig tree (Mk 12:12-14) and judged/purged the temple (Mk 12:15-19). Both of these stood as symbols of Israel (fig tree: Jeremiah 8:11-13, temple: 1 Kings 8:41-43). In what way would Jesus himself be like the cursed fig tree & the judged temple, taking upon himself the judgement that Israel (& the world) deserved?

Application

The Temple was intended to symbolize God's invitation to the world to know/love Him (1 Kings 8:41-43). However, under Israel's mismanagement it came to symbolize God's exclusion of the world. The purpose for which the temple was supposed to symbolize had lost its meaning and instead became an idol for an oppressive religious system.

- In what ways can we as Christians misuse what we've been given by God to drive people away from Him instead of drawing them near to Jesus?

Prayer

- Pray that God would show you what areas of your life are actually driving people away from God rather than drawing them into a loving relationship with him.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.