

You Are The TEMPLE of GOD

1 Corinthians 3:16

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The Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Old Testament prophecy | Zechariah 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your KING is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey,...*

The New Testament fulfillment | Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus made His claim to be Israel's Messiah and King in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. It represented God's Glory coming to the Temple. The environment was filled with great joy and is celebrated today as Palm Sunday, just before His Crucifixion. However, the excitement would do a dramatic shift withing the week! (Matthew 27:16-26; Mark 15:7-15; Luke 23:18-25; John 18:40)

From Matthew's perspective in Matthew 21:12-16

1. Matthew adds another level in his account. After Jesus comes through the Gate He immediately heads to the Temple. Observe the progression of events.
2. In the Temple He (violently) cleanses it, changing it from a "den of thieves" in order to bring it back to its original purpose, a house of prayer and intimacy with the Father. Then the blind and lame came to Him and were healed! Seeing the power of God, the children began to praise and exalt Him as the Son of David!

We are the Temple of God

God's Word states that *we (you) are the Temple of God! Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* (1 Corinthians 3:16)

1. Without a constant flow of His Spirit through our lives we stagnate, we become spiritually sluggish, motionless, inactive, and we return to what is easy and comfortable for us. As this happens we allow our lives to become a "den of thieves" where sin abounds and multiplies.

- As well, we can be excited bystanders caught up in the excitement of the moment as the people were during the triumphal entry. But that does not mean that we are in a relationship with Him. (Matthew 7:21-23)
2. By allowing Him to come to us as the True King of Kings we must also allow Him to enter our Temple (heart) and to give the Holy Spirit *absolute freedom* to do what He wants. This decision followed by action produces freedom from all types of emotional and physical bondages.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (liberty from bondage, true freedom).*

When He comes to our Temple...

1. **Cleansing** | Let Him not only forgive you of your sin but allow the Spirit to do a deep cleansing from the motive and bondage of sin.
 - Matthew 5:21-30 *...You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart...*
2. **Prayer** | Force a consistent time of intimate prayer where you develop your ability to hear His still, small Voice.
 - 1 Kings 19:11-13 *...and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice (a delicate whispering voice).*
 - Ephesians 5:16 — To create a meaningful, quality, and consistent time of prayer we MUST “redeem” the time. In other words, we must exchange it for something else, otherwise it only remains as a good idea or “I should.” It must be forced! a habit to redeem the time.
3. **Praise** | Contend for HIS Presence and Power in your own life. Become a person who will give God praise in ANY situation! In doing so healing on all levels can be yours!
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
 - Psalm 16:11 *You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.*

What one thing is God is saying to you? Write it down and immediately put it into practice!