

# Community Group Discussion

January 19, 2021

*Purpose: Love one another and grow as a community of believers*

**Text:** John 2:13-25

**Theme:** A clear view of Jesus

**Overarching thought:** At times, our outer court living (pre-occupied with worldly/fleshly pursuits) misrepresents God and gets in the way of people seeing and coming to Jesus through us.

- In the cleansing of the temple, we get a picture of Jesus redefining the true picture of God, and of the importance God places on everyone having access to Him. The outer court was the one place in the temple everyone (men, women, Jew, gentile) could “meet God.” However, man had turned it into something other than a place welcoming for all to come and commune or seek God. (v13-16)
  - o ***Do we see any correlation between this and the greater church world today?***
  - o ***What are some potential barriers that might keep the sinful, needy, lost, and forsaken from finding Jesus in our church?***
  - o ***Are we putting up barriers that keep people from growing in Christ within the church?***
  
- We see Jesus overturning tables, driving out the money changers, and purifying the temple. The reality is He wants to remove anything in our lives that would misrepresent or tarnish His image in us.
  - o ***What in your life might qualify as a “table” that needs knocked over?***
  - o ***What might hinder you from letting this happen?***
  - o ***How would this overthrowing further empower and enable you in your walk with Christ?***
  
- The old sacrificial system of going to the temple to atone for sin, to commune, and to worship God has now been replaced by Jesus. His sacrifice has given us immediate access to Father. Through prayer we can come before God, ask for forgiveness, and pray/worship. (1 John 2:2, Romans 3:22-25, 8:1, Ephesians 5:2, Philippians 4:6, Hebrews 4:16)
  - o ***How does it impact you to know that Jesus has replaced the “old sacrificial system” and you now have direct access to God because of Jesus’s sacrifice?***
  - o ***What are ways you worship God through your actions/words in daily life now, outside of church?***
  
- If you’ve put your faith, hope, and trust in Jesus, you are now a temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19)
  - o ***As temples of the Holy Spirit, what are some ways your actions/reactions to situations might help or hinder people’s ability to find Jesus through you?***
  - o ***Is there anything in your life that would distort the picture of Jesus in you to others?***

**Reflecting on following Jesus:** *Jesus gets angry when we as followers of Christ put barriers in front of others that keep them from finding Jesus.*