

Let's connect

Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord! Peace
in Heaven and glory in the highest!

Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Connect Groups Study | Study 2. From Temples to Temples



STUDY 2

FROM TEMPLES TO TEMPLES

SCRIPTURES

Luke 19:45-48
Luke 20:1-9

Background, context, and observations

The grief Jesus demonstrated in verse 41 grew when He saw that the temple courts had become a place where merchants and the Pharisees took advantage of the poor and the foreigners. Rather than distant travelers who had come to worship God receiving welcoming assistance, those who needed to exchange their currency for temple currency were being exploited. Jesus quotes from Isaiah 56:7 (NIV), “for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” to highlight the contrast of the beautiful prophetic picture of what the temple was to be and the reality of what it was.

The Pharisees, having their “righteousness” insulted by Jesus (as they were the ones who permitted the business dealings in the temple courts), were plotting ways to kill Jesus, and demanded to know what authority Jesus had in clearing the temple courts and, subsequently, teaching in those courts.

Example Questions for Discussion

1. Reread verse 41 (discussed in Study #1). Discuss the contrast of the tragic conditions Jesus saw (in Jerusalem, and especially in the temple) with how it could have been.
2. What distractions do we allow that widen the spiritual gap in our lives from what could be and what is? Praise God for his mercy and grace as He welcomes our re-surrender. What step could you take this week?
3. Read Luke 20:9-19. Focus on verse 17 and the use of Psalm 118:22. Consider the significance that Jesus, the rejected stone, has become the Cornerstone for the new building that is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. As followers of Jesus our lives are now part of the temple, the place where God lives! How does knowing this impact your perspective on your work, your family, your hobbies, and your leisure?

Dive Deeper:

Related scriptures: Mark 12:1-9; Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 12:48; Psalm 69:9; Isaiah 28:16-17 and 56:7; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:19-22

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For further consideration:

1. Using the scriptures above, discuss who we can be and what we can do, as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19), to demonstrate God's extravagant grace and His decisive truth in the world around us.
2. Dig into the Parable of the Tenants to determine who is represented by each of the 5 key roles: vineyard owner, vineyard, tenants, servants, vineyard owner's son. Consider the immediate audience for this parable and then consider what we can learn from the parable as we follow Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, in establishing His Kingdom on earth. Ask yourself: What has God entrusted to you? What has he asked you to steward on his behalf?

For further study:

Luke for Everyone - Tom Wright. In his "New Testament For Everyone" series

Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference - John D. Inazu and Timothy Keller

With thanks to Andrew from Alexandria

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Take time to pray together and thank God for His mercy as we resurrenser.

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