

PORTRAIT OF THE KING

“What Is God’s House For?” (Matthew 21:12-17)

INTRODUCTION

- 19 Reasons We Come to Church
 1. We come to church to show ourselves as a _____ to the world, regarding our love (John 13:35).
 2. We come to church because we are part of a _____ that will gather – with or without us (Rom 12:5).
 3. We come to church to use our _____ gifts (Rom 12:6a).
 4. We come to church to remember the Lord’s _____ and _____ (I Cor 11:26).
 5. We come to church because we are indispensable to _____ (I Cor 12:21-22).
 6. We come to church to hear about the _____ of our brothers and sisters, so that we might learn to walk better through those troubles with them (Gal 6:2).
 7. We come to church so that we might be _____ for ministry (Eph 4:11-12).
 8. We come to church so that others may _____ spiritually (Eph 4:15-16).
 9. We come to church to _____ with one another (Eph 5:19).
 10. We come to church to share what we are _____ for (Eph 5:20).
 11. We come to church to show preference to one _____ (Eph 5:21).
 12. We come to church to participate in _____ (Titus 2:2-6).
 13. We come to church that our hearts would not be _____ by sin (Heb 3:12-13).
 14. We come to church to allow the Word of God to do its work in our _____ (Heb 4:12).
 15. We come to church in order to _____ others to good works – (Heb 10:24).
 16. We come to church because God _____ it (Heb 10:25a).
 17. We come to church because we need _____ (Heb 10:25b).
 18. We come to church to support our God-appointed _____ (Heb 13:7).
 19. We come to church to get a preview of our experience in _____ (Rev 21:3).

- KEY POINT: The _____ we gather in should build up the lives of others, not _____ them down.

- Reasons for 2 Cleansings in the Gospels
 1. In John's account, Jesus made a whip and cracked it all over the Temple but not in the Synoptics.
 2. In John's account, the disciples heard Jesus quote Psalm 69:9 – "*zeal for your house has consumed me*" but not in the Synoptics.
 3. In John's account, the religious leaders got upset because they thought Jesus was going to tear down the Temple. In the Synoptics, the religious leaders got upset because the crowds were beginning to believe Jesus.

EXPOSITION

- Jews were required to bring a lamb or pigeons (Lev 12:6,8) for Passover sacrifice.

- Annas, the High Priest

- "*A den of robbers*" – Cf. Jeremiah 7:11

- "*A house of prayer*" – Cf. Psalm 27:4

- Notice who was welcomed into the Temple instead: the lame and blind (vs. 14) and young men and women (vs. 15-16).

CONCLUSION

TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER

- 1) If you had to make a list of reasons you gather with the church, what would some of those reasons be? Are they biblical reasons?
- 2) How do you prepare yourself for the church gathering?
- 3) Book Recommendation – *The Body Dynamic* by John MacArthur