

Judgment Begins with the Household of God
Matthew 21:12-19

I. The Judgment of Israel's W_____:

a. Things to consider:

- i. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple most likely occurred on Tuesday, the next day after His Triumphal Entry (cf. Mark 11:11)
- ii. Jesus cleansed the Temple twice at the first Passover of His public ministry and at His last (cf. John 2:13-25)
- iii.
- iv. The Temple complex was over 36 acres with a central main temple surrounded by concentric courtyards (Priests, Israelites, Woman, Gentiles)
- v. In Jesus' day the Courtyard of the Gentiles was dominated by a religious marketplace called the Bazaar of Annas (the High Priest)
 1. Everything religious was sold there: sacrificial animals, oils, wines, and moneychangers (cf. Ex. 30:13; Matt. 17:24)
- b. They had exchanged worship for commerce and worse corruption!
- c. So, **Jesus drove out all those** and closed off the area (cf. Mark 11:16)
- d. He then quoted the prophet Isaiah to remind everyone that it was God's will that the temple would be a house of prayer, especially for the foreigner (cf. Isa. 56:6-7; 1 Sam. 1:9-20; 1 Kings 8:28-30; Ps. 27:4)
- e. Then He quoted the prophet Jeremiah to point out their corruption and deceit (cf. Jer. 7:11; Mal. 3:1-4)

II. The Judgment of Israel's P_____:

- a. The blind and the lame were often barred from the temple because they were seen as cursed by God (cf. 2 Sam 5:8; John 9:2; James 1:27)
- b. The children = is probably 12-year-old boys who recently went through Bat Mitzvah (cf. Luke 2:41-42)
 - i. **Hosanna to the Son of David!** = Messiah
- c. The Chief Priests and scribes were indignant and basically asked "How can you stand there and let these kids blaspheme God by calling you the Messiah?"
- d. Jesus righteously sarcastically answered them and quoted Psalm 8 to show them that He was God, and they were spiritually blind (cf. Ps. 8:2; cf. 12:3; 19:4; 21:42; 22:31)

III. The Judgment of Israel's N_____:

- a. Now in the morning = a likely flashback from Matthew to Tuesday morning (cf. Mark 11:12-14, 20-21)
 - i. The disciples didn't seem to notice the withering until the following morning when returning to Jerusalem
- b. Fig trees apparently bear fruit before they grow leaves, so this tree should have had at least a small fruit, but it was a good-looking lie.
 - i. Just like Israel, who had all the spiritual trappings but no spiritual fruit!
- c. Therefore, Jesus cursed the fig tree in order to show the judgment that was awaiting Israel (cf. Luke 19:41-44)

IV. Now What? (Ps. 51:16-17)