

“The Perpetual Need of the Church”

Matthew 21:12-17

This is one of four accounts of Jesus “cleaning the temple” (Mk. 11:15-18; Lk 19:45-47; Jn 2:13-16). There were many needs that became evident as Jesus acted and spoke in the temple that day. These needs are still evident today:

- I. The church needs perpetual PURITY (v.12 “buying and selling in the temple”)
 - A. Purity is needed in the PERSONAL BODY (I Cor. 6:19-20)
 - B. Purity is need in the CHURCH BODY (I Cor 3:16-17)

- II. The church needs perpetual PRAYER (v.13 “My house shall be called a house of prayer...”)
 - A. The church provides a PLACE FOR PRAYER (“My house”) - Acts 3:1.
 - B. The church provides a PURPOSE FOR PRAYER.
 1. Confession of sin (I Jn. 1:9)
 2. Intercession for others (I Thess. 1:2)
 3. Requests for ourselves (James 4:2)

- III. The church needs perpetual POWER (v.14 “He healed them”)
 - A. We need God’s power for PHYSICAL HEALING (James 5:13-14)
 - B. We need God’s power for SPIRITUAL HEALING (II Cor. 4:3-4)

- IV. The church needs perpetual PRAISE (vv. 15-16 “Hosanna to the son of David.”)
 - A. RELIGIOUS PEOPLE RESIST praise (v.15)
 - B. REDEEMED PEOPLE RESPOND in praise (vv.15c,9)

Evaluate your church and determine if you have these same needs. Then pray that the Lord would cleanse and purify you for His glory and for the sake of the gospel. - rrc