Jesus Final Journey Discussion Questions

Something About Mondays Luke 19:45-48

Drawn from the February 25, 2024 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: Have you ever had a spiritual high point that turned into a real downer afterward?

Luke 19:45-48 NIV

⁴⁵ When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ "It is written,"he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer", but you have made it 'a den of robbers." ⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

1.	Are you surprised at Jesus' reaction when he arrived at the Temple? Why do you
	think he acted so intensely?

2.	How had the purpose of praying at the Temple been thwarted by their practices?
	Why did Jesus address this at that particular time?

There are two Old Testament passages that Jesus referred to that help us understand what was happening.

Isaiah 56:6-8 (NLT)

"I will also bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord, who serve him and love his name, who worship him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast to my covenant. ⁷ I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because **my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**8 For the Sovereign Lord, who brings back the outcasts of Israel, says I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel."

The buying and selling was taking place in what was called "the court of the Gentiles". It was not allowed for Gentiles to enter the other Temple courts which were surrounded by a wall and a gate (See Acts 21:28-29). Jesus apparently was reclaiming this part of the temple as sacred ground.

3. What kind of statement was Jesus making by driving out these mer	chants?
Jeremiah 7:11-15 (NIV)	
¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to been watching! declares the Lord. ¹² "Go now to the place in Shiloh wh dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedne Israel. ¹³ While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spongain, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. ¹⁴ The Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you gave to you and your ancestors. ¹⁵ I will thrust you from my presence, if fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.'	ere I first made a ess of my people ke to you again and erefore, what I did to trust in, the place I
4. How did callousness toward Gentiles and the mixing of commerce practices (selling sacrifices) show what was in the people's hearts?	•
5. How does this Old Testament Scripture help explain the strong rea priests and other leaders after Jesus applied it to them?	ction of the chief
Luke 20:1-8 NIV One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and process, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the enhim. ² "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said authority?" He replied, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John's from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?' But if worigin,' all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's origin, and they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will be people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John's people will be people will	ders, came up to "Who gave you this baptism—was it res and said, "If we re say, 'Of human ohn was a prophet."

6. Why was the question of Jesus' authority important here?		
7. What was John the Baptist's message? (See Luke 3:1-9.) How was John's message related to Jesus' ministry and authority?		
Group Prayer Time: Thank Jesus for what he has shown you about your own motives. Invite him to cleanse your life of anything that displeases him and prevents others from seeing him for who he is. Consider the authority he has to bring correction and guidance to our lives.		
For Further Refection:		
What people, things, or events led you to recognize Jesus' authority?		
What authority does He have in your life now? How can you tell?		
Are there any obstacles in your life that you would sorely miss if God removed them so that you might bear more fruit and worship Him more genuinely? How is God calling you to respond to this realization?		
Next week, March 3, pastor Jeff will cover "Skeptics" Luke 20:27-38 and there will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.		