

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.

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 Reflection:

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.