

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. .
(Matt. 24:35)

As we follow in the first chapters of the book of John, Jesus and His disciples had been in Cana, at the wedding where Jesus performed His first miracle (Jn. 2:11) of changing water into wine.

Between 120-180 gallons (Jn. 2:6).

It is the beginning of the public ministry of our Lord Jesus after His baptism by John the Baptist (Jn. 1:29-34).

From Cana Jesus went with His mother, and brothers and disciples to Capernaum and remained there for a few days (Jn. 2:12). [Looking at a map we learn that this was a journey of about 18 miles.]

Then from Capernaum, Jesus went to Jerusalem.

In a straight line, the distance from Capernaum to Jerusalem is about 75 miles one way.

All of this travel is by foot. Quite the hike!

Jesus was going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

We learn in Scripture that Jesus was celebrating the Passover since the age of 12 (Luke 2:41-52).

The Passover was the celebration which the Lord directed the people of Israel to celebrate each year as a commemoration and remembrance of when the Lord delivered the People of Israel out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 11:1 – Exodus 12:42).

The Lord passed through the entire land of Egypt, and struck down the first born of every family.

Man and animal.

The Lord through Moses had directed the people to slaughter a Lamb without blemish and paint the blood on the door frames of their house, and when the Lord saw the blood, He would Pass Over the house and no one would die inside because of the blood of the lamb. The Passover Lamb was of course a foreshadowing of Jesus the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world. (Jn. 1:29)

In our sermon text for today, as Jesus goes to celebrate the Passover, He is going in the capacity of His Public Ministry as Messiah, as Savior from the sin of the world.

John 2:13, 14 - When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts- ἱερόν - He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

We see that Jesus makes a whip, and begins to drive out the animals, and the money changers.

Jesus even overturned the tables. (John 2:15-16)

These merchants had made the temple courts - ἱερόν - into a market place.

(The Greek word - ναός - refers to the Temple building. The Greek term - ἱερόν - refers to the temple court)

In our present day, if we saw someone going about like this, what would one think?
What would someone do?

Someone would pull out their cell phone and begin recording while someone else called the police.

As Jesus is driving out the animals and money changers, Jesus clearly states:

Vs. 16 - How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

In other words: the Temple area was / is a place of worship, a place for the proclamation of the Word of God, it is not a place to carry out business. (We need to remember this in our own day and age.)

How did it happen that the Temple area became a marketplace?

If you will remember, it was the Lord Who had instructed His people to sacrifice specific animals for worship to the Lord as burnt offerings (Exodus 29:15-43), the people also needed to pay the temple tax (Exodus 30:11-16, II Chron. 24:8-10, Matt. 17:24-27).

Those merchants who sold animals for sacrifice and the money changers simply made their way into the Temple courts.

As we see Jesus drive out these merchants it is a clear message that the church is not a place of business, even though some may think otherwise.

Instead the visible church on earth has a purpose, and that purpose is to proclaim the message that Jesus tells us in His dialogue with the Jews who witnessed this event.

Vs. 19 – Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple - $\nu\alpha\omicron\sigma$ - and I will raise it again in three days.

Vs. 20 – The Jews replied, It has taken forty six years to build this temple - $\nu\alpha\omicron\sigma$ -, and you are going to raise it in three days?

Vs. 21 - But the Temple - $\nu\alpha\omicron\sigma$ - He (Jesus) had spoken of was His Body.

Jesus revealed His Mission, and we are directed to proclaim that Mission of our Lord to others. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Already early in His Public Ministry, Jesus proclaimed that He would suffer and die, and that on the third day He would rise again to life.

As we hear these Words of our Lord Jesus, He is speaking in parables. Those who do not believe in Him, did not understand what Jesus was talking about. By their response, they thought that Jesus was speaking of the earthly building, but Jesus was really speaking of His body of flesh which would be nailed to the cross of Calvary for the sin of the World.

Speaking of the Human body as a Temple is not unusual, as this terminology has been used in other parts of Scripture.

1Co 6:19 Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I Corinthians 3:16 - 17 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (RSV) 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. (RSV)

Even as Jesus has revealed His Mission to us in Scripture, we also have been given the Mission to Proclaim the Salvation that He won for us – To others. AMEN

THEME: Jesus Reveals His Mission