

RIGHT AFTER **SHARING** HOW JESUS CHASED AWAY THE MONEY-CHANGERS, JOHN WROTE: *WHILE HE WAS THERE, PEOPLE SAW HIS SIGNS AND BELIEVED. BUT, JESUS DIDN'T ENTRUST HIMSELF TO THEM; HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN EACH PERSON.*

DEAR FRIENDS...
 JESUS KNOWS US THOROUGHLY. HE KNOWS OUR NASTINESS, WEAKNESS, AND OUR DEEP-SEATED RESISTANCE TO CHANGE. THAT'S GOOD; HE KNOWS WHAT TO CHASE OUT OF US AND WHAT TO CLEAN UP SO WE CAN BE HIS TEMPLE.

IN THE 70'S, THE MUSIC ARTIST, MELANIE, SANG A SONG WHICH BEGAN: *SOME SAY I GOT DEVIL; SOME SAY I GOT ANGEL; I'M JUST A GIRL IN TROUBLE.* WE, TOO, 'GOT ANGEL AND DEVIL'. JESUS STICKS WITH US, - SOMETIMES WITH A WHIP IN HAND; MOST OFTEN WITH HIS ENCOURAGING ARMS SPREAD WIDE OPEN.

...JESUS WAS JUSTLY OFFENDED BY A TEMPLE COURTYARD TURNED MARKETPLACE! MERCHANTS HAD SET UP SHOP, SELLING PIGEONS, OXEN, AND LAMBS TO THE FAITHFUL WHO HAD COME FROM FAR-OFF LANDS TO PAY THEIR TEMPLE TAX, MAKE SACRIFICE AND TO PURCHASE A LAMB FOR PASSOVER.

THE COURT OF THE GENTILES HAD BECOME A DEN OF THIEVES. THEY WERE CHEATING THE PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF GOD! THE HOUSE OF HOLY LOVE WAS A STINKING STOCKYARD FULL OF STINKING CHARLATANS.

WORSHIPPERS, GOING THROUGH THE COURTYARD INTO THE TEMPLE, WERE MET BY LOUD BARTERING INSTEAD OF BEAUTIFUL ENTRANCE PSALMS. GENTILES, WHO WORSHIPPED IN THE COURTYARD, WERE LITERALLY 'BLEEP' OUT OF LUCK.

AS JESUS WALKED INTO THIS UNGODLY FESTIVAL OF GREED, THE PEOPLE WHO 'GOT DEVIL' WERE RIGHT IN THE OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE. JESUS COULDN'T LET THIS CAIAPHAS-ENDORSED SIN VIOLATE HIS FATHER'S HOUSE!

IT WASN'T TIME FOR A QUIETLY SPOKEN PARABLE. JESUS MADE A WHIP FROM SOME TWISTED REEDS AND DROVE THE ANIMALS AND MERCHANTS OUT OF THE TEMPLE! THIS INSULT AGAINST HIS FATHER'S HOUSE ALSO INSULTED JESUS.

THESE MEN, BY DEFILING THE PLACE WHERE GOD DWELT WITH HIS PEOPLE, WERE DEBASING THE MESSIAH – JESUS! HIS SACRIFICE OF SALVATION WAS ALIVE IN THOSE PIGEONS, OXEN AND LAMBS. THE PEOPLE WERE TRUSTING IN HIM WHEN THEY TRUSTED THE PROMISE OF PARDON AND PEACE IN THEIR BLOOD OFFERING.

THE NASTY OUT-OF-CONTROL MINI-MALL HAD LOST THE REVERENT NATURE OF INNOCENT BLOOD BEING SHED FOR THE ATONEMENT OF SIN. THIS WAS AN OFFENSE TO JESUS' FATHER AND AN AFFRONT TO HIM.

JESUS WAS SO ZEALOUS AND JUSTIFIED THAT NO ONE DARED STAND UP TO HIM! IT'S FUNNY THAT WE HAVE NO PICTURES IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS STANDING BEFORE THE TEMPLE WITH A WHIP IN HIS HAND AMID TUMBLED TABLES AND FLEEING ANIMALS AND MEN; WE'RE TICKLED WHEN WE REMEMBER THIS SCENE.

2 JESUS SAW, NOT ONLY THE OUTWARD INSULT OF THE SHAMEFUL SPECTACLE, BUT THE INWARD HEARTS OF THOSE THIEVES. THE NASTY SMELL OF BEASTS AND SWEATY CROWD HAD NOTHING ON THE SPIRITUAL STENCH OF THE PLACE! FILTHY LUCRE AT GOD'S EXPENSE IS THE WORST OF 'GOT DEVIL.'

THE THOUGHT OF A SAVIOR, HAD BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN SHEEP POOP AND GREEDY HAGGLING. MONEY HAD BECOME AN IDOL AND HEARTS WORSHIPPED SHEKELS AND SILVER RIGHT IN GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE. JESUS WOULDN'T HAVE IT!

AFTER HE LIBERATED THE COURT, HE WAS ASKED FOR A SIGN TO PROVE HE HAD THE RIGHT TO SHUT DOWN THE MARKET. HE SPOKE TO THE SOUL OF THE TEMPLE! DESTROY THIS TEMPLE AND IN THREE DAYS I'LL RAISE IT UP.

THE TEMPLE WAS WHERE GOD MET HIS PEOPLE. IT LOOKED FORWARD TO JESUS - GOD WITH US. THE DISCIPLES REMEMBERED THIS AFTER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY AND THEY BELIEVED HIS WORDS. DO YOU?

THE RISEN LORD KNOWS YOUR 'DEVIL AND ANGEL'. HE SEES YOUR LAZY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COMMANDMENTS. YOU CAN SPOUT FOOLISHNESS WITH THE BEST OF THEM. YOU CATCH YOURSELF BOASTING OF THINGS YOU'VE DONE OR HOW MUCH YOU KNOW. YOU'D NEVER STEAL FROM THE OFFERING PLATE LIKE THOSE AT THE TEMPLE; BUT, NEITHER DOES GOD GET ALL HE DESERVES FROM YOU.

YOU DEFILE THE TEMPLE. YOU 'GOT DEVIL'. YOU DESERVE TO HAVE JESUS TAKE A WHIP AND DRIVE YOU OUT OF HIS PRESENCE FOREVER! INSTEAD, HE CLEANS YOU UP BY BAPTISM AND ADDS HIS 'ANGEL' TO YOU IN HOLY COMMUNION.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. YOUR SPIRITUAL STENCH IS COMPLETELY ELIMINATED AND YOUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE BECOME A WONDERFUL FRAGRANCE RISING INTO HEAVEN. DURING LENT IT'S PARTICULARLY CLEAR THAT GOD'S LAMB IS THE PERFECT OFFERING OF LOVE, LEAVING YOU SPARKLING CLEAN. - You Got Angel!

JESUS ACCOMPLISHED YOUR PARDON AND PEACE EXACTLY THREE YEARS AFTER THIS FIRST CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE. ZEAL FOR HIS FATHER'S HOUSE DROVE HIM TO CLEANSE THE TEMPLE AND ZEAL FOR YOU DROVE HIM TO THE CROSS. YOU ARE NOW HIS TEMPLE, TAKING CHRIST INTO THE WORLD.

YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME 'DEVIL' IN YOU, BUT YOU'RE ALL 'ANGEL' IN GOD'S ESTIMATION. YOU ARE A FORGIVEN CHILD, ALWAYS WELCOME AT HIS TABLE! HE DOESN'T ENTRUST HIMSELF TO YOU; HE GIVES HIMSELF FOR YOU.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR TEMPLE STATUS. LET OTHERS KNOW THAT THIS JESUS WHO CRACKS THE WHIP AT SIN, PLACES HIMSELF UNDER THE WHIP IN ORDER TO FREE ALL SINNERS FROM THE CURSE OF DEATH.

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THAT THOUGH JESUS SEES INSIDE THEIR HEART, HE ONLY WANTS TO MOVE IN AND MAKE IT A PLACE OF BEAUTIFUL PARDON AND HEAVENLY PEACE. YOU RECEIVE THAT HERE; TAKE IT OUT THERE. AMEN.

NOW MAY THE PEACE WHICH SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING, BE WITH YOUR HEART AND MIND THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.

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8 - Prepare / PRAYER
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