

The Spirit of The House Part 2

Opening Text: **Matthew 21:12-16**

As we saw last week, Jesus rebuked people who were in the House but didn't have the *spirit* of the House. Something had happened to the original intent of God for His house: the culture, values and *ethos* of the house had been somehow perverted and altered.

God was being misrepresented by the religious leaders and the system they created. Neither the greediness of the money changers nor the attitude of the scribes and Pharisees embodied the spirit of the house.

Last week, we also saw how Jesus defined what belongs in the house of God and what doesn't and we looked at 6 things that define the 'spirit of the house'.

Today, we will continue looking at this passage and particularly at 3 very important 'values of the house'.

1. The value of an encounter

The scribes and the leaders of the temple disregarded the value of that moment. Just think of it: God is the flesh was among them, in the outer court of the temple!

In the house of God, we value every opportunity for an encounter with God. We yield to Him, we seek to be led by Him and we pursue His presence. We live for those defining moments when He comes and touches us, and we are never the same again. We see every service as an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus.

The scribes and Pharisees missed the day of their visitation. They were undiscerning, disconnected, unaware and indifferent because of the hardness of their hearts. In fact, in the words of this passage, we see them 'indignant' – displeased, annoyed and offended. They saw '*wonderful things*' but they attached no value to that experience.

In the house of God, we value all that God does by His supernatural power.

2. The value of others

Their displeasure and indignation was not against the greedy thieves in the temple but against the very people Jesus touched: the lame and blind who came to be healed by Jesus, and the children singing "*Hosanna to the son of David*".

They didn't rejoice at the healing of blind and lame. They didn't respond with celebration but with indignation.

Another example:

Luke 13:10-17 - ¹⁰Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. ¹²But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." ¹³And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made

straight, and glorified God. ¹⁴But the ruler of the synagogue **answered with indignation**, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath...

Jesus always valued people: that is the spirit of the house. We value what He values: others are important. People matter to God.

In our opening text, we see that the scribes and chief priests didn't rejoice at the fact that people with such great disabilities as blindness or paralysis had been healed. They did not rejoice at their blessing.

The spirit of the house says, "*rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those that weep*" (**Romans 12:15**)

In the house of God, we celebrate each other's victories and we support each other in tough times.

Galatians 6:2 - *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

The spirit of the house is not individualistic or self-righteous but values others and values community.

Here's the right kind of indignation:

2 Corinthians 11:28-29 - ²⁸*besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?*

The only justifiable indignation is against sin and satan, against the enemies of man, against the things that cause man to stumble and fall. It is an indignation motivated by our value and concern for others.

3. The value of authentic worship

¹⁵But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "*Hosanna to the Son of David!*" they were indignant ¹⁶and said to Him, "*Do You hear what these are saying?*" And Jesus said to them, "*Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?'*"

Jesus valued the unsophisticated simplicity of this kind of worship. Simple yet profound, from the heart, sincere, real, truthful and genuine. Jesus used the worship of children as a standard of great worship.

In another passage (Luke 18:17) Jesus said that we need to become like children to receive the kingdom of God. We need to decrease in order to grow.

The Father seeks such who worship Him in spirit and truth. He looks for the truthful, genuine, child-like worship.

The High Priests rejected the worship of the children, but Jesus received it and set it as an example of what 'high standard devotion' looks like.

That is the kind of worship we value in the house of God. Irrespective of music styles (which vary from culture to culture and from one decade to the next), God is looking for the sincere heart of His children overflowing with authentic worship.

Conclusion

In the house of God we need to welcome the culture of His kingdom and value what He values. Today's passage highlighted for us...

1. The value of an encounter with Jesus
2. The value of others (we don't journey alone)
3. The value of authentic worship