

## The Spirit of The House

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

Jesus rebuked people who were in the House but didn't have the *spirit* of the House. He said to them: *'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it into a den of thieves.'*

- a) Firstly, it was *His* house – He feels strongly about His house!
- b) Secondly, a house of prayer

However, men had taken over the nature and purpose of that place. A place that was to be sacred and holy had become the opposite: a den of thieves.

These were people who were in the 'house' but they did not have the 'spirit of the house'. What is then the 'spirit' of God's house? What is the real meaning, the real purpose, the original intention - the spirit of the house?

From the very words of Jesus in this passage, we can identify 6 things that express the 'spirit of the house' of God:

#### 1. Prayer

*'My house shall be called a house of prayer'*

The house should be known as a place where we primarily commune with God. Someone like Anna the prophetess had the spirit of the house. She was in the temple and she knew what the temple was about:

**Luke 2:37** - *and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*

#### 2. Praise

<sup>15</sup> *But 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 <sup>16</sup> and 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?"*

These leaders were indignant about praise. They were indignant about things that Jesus approved, yet not indignant about the money changers and those who sold doves. They welcomed the things Jesus drove out and rejected those things He accepted.

#### 3. Healing

**V.14** – *"then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them"*

Healing is an expression of the Spirit of the house. We believe that church is a place where miracles happen.

#### 4. Teaching

**Mark 11:17-18** - *Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"<sup>18</sup> And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.*

The house of God is all about His teachings. In the days of Jesus, it was more about the traditions of men and the regulations of the Pharisees.

- **Mark 1:22** - <sup>22</sup> *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*
- **Luke 4:32,36** - <sup>32</sup> *And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. <sup>36</sup> Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."*

#### 5. Zeal and passion

**John 2:16-17** - *And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" <sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*

The dictionary defines **zeal** as *"a strong feeling of interest and enthusiasm that makes someone very eager or determined to do something"*

**NLT:** <sup>17</sup> *Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."*

Jesus was moved with *passion* for His own house. That is the spirit of our Leader and the spirit of the Leader needs to be upon His followers (there was one instance when Jesus rebuked His disciples because they failed to understand what manner of spirit they were of – Luke 9:55)

Passion, enthusiasm, fervour, zeal, commitment, engagement describe the spirit of the house.

#### 6. Compassion

**V.14** – *"then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them"*

The 'house' is a place where people can come to Jesus. This is a powerful value in the kingdom of God. We want to be compassionate soul winners. We want to introduce people to Jesus.

He was always moved with compassion for the lost, the hungry, the sick. He said, "all that comes to Me, I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

Anyone, regardless of their condition, is welcome to come to Jesus. That is the spirit of the house.

When Jesus came, God's house was ruled by a religious elite who were anything but compassionate. That is why they did not have the spirit of the house.

**Review of what we covered today**

Jesus defined what belongs in the house of God. In this passage, He highlighted 6 aspects of the 'spirit of the house':

1. Prayer
2. Praise
3. Healing
4. Teaching
5. Passion
6. Compassion