**John 2:14-17 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. 16And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” 17Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”**

Two weeks ago, we looked at 1 Corinthians 3:16 - *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* When we grasp that the Spirit of God dwells within us, really grasp it, not just surface - deep, it changes how we perceive everything. It changes how we see others, how we view our brother and sister, how we serve God.

Today, we’re with Jesus when He cleanses the temple the first time. Very clearly, there is a first and a second cleansing. The first is at the start of His ministry. The second is toward the end. Though similar, they’re not the same. Imagine being there with Him, walking up the steps, hearing the noise, smelling the smells. Jesus found a temple filled with animals, money changers, corrupt priests, and confused worshippers. He found a temple focused on the world and not on God. He found a place known as the temple, but bearing little resemblance. He found rule keepers – He found cherry pickers of the scripture. Whitewashed tombs, filthy inside.

I want to ask a question this morning - When the Holy Spirit of God takes a tour of the temple called you – called me – what does He find? If Jesus were to pass through my life, your life, what would He be driving out, what tables might He be flipping over, what scriptures might He point out that we’ve forgotten or ignored? How often do we sit with the Lord and seek the things that should be thrown out of our lives? Not often enough I’d say. From this scripture, we see Jesus brings three things to our souls: Peace, Clarity, and Zeal.

Jesus brings Peace. Verse 14 *And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business.*The Son of God found a place of noise and confusion – the Court of the Gentiles filled with sheep, oxen, doves – good for sacrifice, but no longer God focused. Too often, we fall into the trap of doing good things, but not God things. We do all the right things for all the wrong reasons. We read the Bible – because we have to, we pray – because something bad might happen if we don’t – we go to church – yet never arrive to worship. The noise of the world is crowding out the voice of God. Jesus is Peace – is there confusion and noise in the temple of your soul this morning? The Prince of Peace has arrived. Will we trust Him to identify the things that don’t belong in our temple this morning?

Jesus brings Clarity. Verses 15-16 *When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. 16And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!”***(Isaiah 56)** Jesus took a whip of cords and drove out the sources of the confusion. Notice He didn’t use a sword, it doesn’t say He struck a single animal or man, no doves were set free. He drove them from the temple – they didn’t belong there. Take these things away! Jesus does the same in us. The things of this world causing distraction. It isn’t Jesus taking them to the door and throwing them down the steps – It’s the power and fear of God driving them out. Jesus brings Clarity, but we must be obedient to His command. Clarity comes when we clear our temple of things displeasing to God.

Jesus brings Zeal. When Peace arrives, and Clarity comes, Zeal follows. Verse 17 *Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”* (Psalm 69) Apathy is always the outcome of a temple crowded by ungodly things. Idols are anything that draws our zeal away from God. Is there a zeal for God? Zeal – a great energy, an exuberance, and enthusiasm in pursuit of the things of God! When zeal disappears, it’s time to take inventory. When apathy appears and comfort consumes and talk replaces action, it’s time to look for the things crowding the temple of God, leading away from scripture, and bringing filth inside the temple. Mark 7:15 Jesus says something extremely interesting - *There is* ***nothing*** *that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.* We like to believe that it’s the world that is defiling us – must be someone else’s fault! Can’t be that I made agreement with the moneychangers. Can’t be that I opened the door to the sheep, oxen, doves. Somebody unlocked the temple. Jesus says - There is NOTHING that enters that can defile him, her.

Jesus brings Peace, Clarity, Zeal… in that order. What’s in your temple this morning? If those things are missing, is it time to repent and ask Jesus to return with His whip of cords? What tables need flipping? What stuff needs removing? What needs to be shown the door? Only you and Jesus can answer that question this morning, but we all have need to clear our temples and refocus our zeal on the Lord! If we’ve comes to the place of Good Enough, come to the place of comfort, come to the place of apathy, we are in deep, deep trouble indeed in our walk with God.