

Message

**Our Need
For Cleansing**



Neal Parker

Our Need For Cleansing

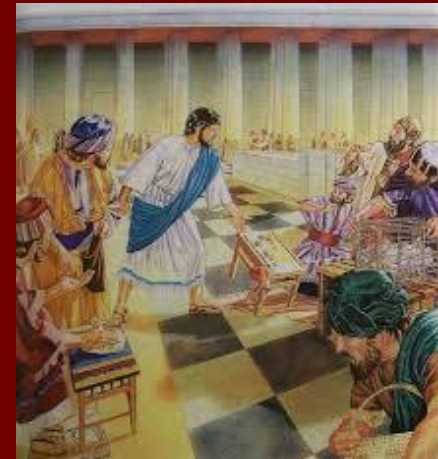
- **The Jews considered the temple to be God's House.**
- **Jesus altered this understanding of the temple.**
- **The glory of God would be found in different location.**



Our Need For Cleansing

■ John 2:13-25

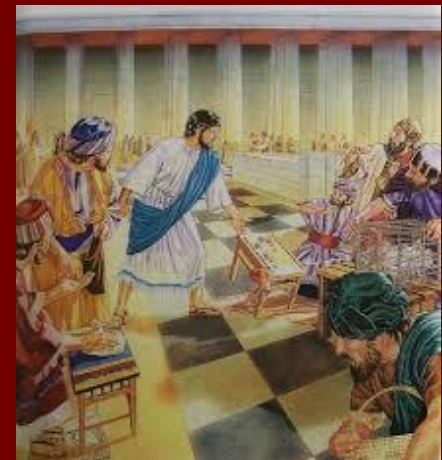
- Jesus cleansed the temple of the money-changers and sellers of merchandise because of His disgust at what they had made of God's house of prayer and His zeal (Psalm 69:9) to purify it from the abuse of ungodly men.
- Also, according to the Law, two doves or pigeons were required to be offered in sacrifice (Leviticus 14:22; Luke 2:24). Yet it was difficult to bring them from the distant parts of Judea, so a lucrative business selling the birds sprang up, with the sellers gouging the faithful by charging exorbitant prices. There were other merchants selling cattle and sheep for the temple sacrifices as well. Because of these sellers who preyed on the poor and because of His passion for the purity of His Father's house, Jesus was filled with righteous indignation.



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■ **Matthew 21:12-17**

- **Jesus cleansed the temple of the money-changers and sellers of merchandise because of His disgust at what they had made of God's house of prayer (Matthew 21:13) and His zeal (Psalm 69:9) to purify it from the abuse of ungodly men.**
- ***I Timothy 3:15, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God... The house of God is the church of the living God.***
- ***I Corinthians 3:16, Paul writes, Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? The individual Christian and the community of believers as a whole, the church, represent the temple of God.***
- ***Ephesians 1:22-23, He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body... The church is the body of Christ.***
- ***I Corinthians 6:19 ... your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.***
- ***Romans 6:12... Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its lusts.***



Analogy For Our Consideration

■ Psalm 51:1-19

- David witnesses to the fact that righteousness comes from the grace of God, apart from any selfish character of man, who declares himself to be righteousness by his works of self-worth.
- He asks to be washed from his iniquity and cleansed from his sin. And then he asks God to purge him. The Hebrew word for “purge” is **chata**, which means to make reconciliation or to purify. And David asks God to purge him with hyssop.



Analogy For Our Consideration

■ Exodus 12:21-27

- Moses has just given the instructions for the killing of the Passover lamb, and he continues with some further instructions.
- Since the third plague, God had also made readily visible a clear distinction between the captive nation of Israel and the Egyptians, in that the Israelites in Goshen had been spared much of the devastation that had ruined the rest of Egypt.
- The Israelites were then told to stay within those homes, separated from the Egyptian people and their normal routines.



Analogy For Our Consideration

■ John 19:28-30

- In the final moments of His physical life on earth, God orchestrated that Jesus Christ be given hyssop, an identifying element that
- Connected Him to the Passover lamb centuries before in Egypt;
- Associated Him with the sacrificial and cleansing ceremonies; and
- Recalled David's request to be purified of his sins.



Analogy For Our Consideration

■ Leviticus 14:1-57

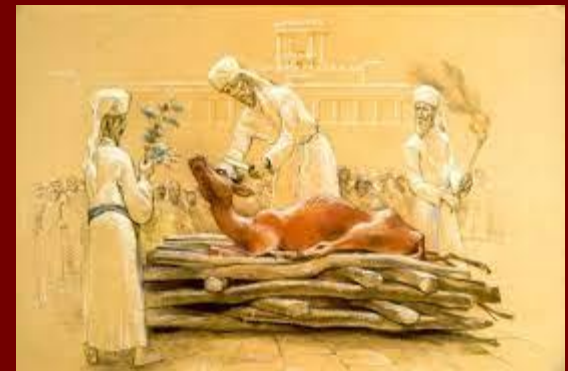
- God wanted the Israelite nation to live according to His commands. In return for their obedience, He would provide all they needed and bless them.
- One of the ways He showed His favor was by healing diseases among the people. He expected them to respond by offering an animal sacrifice.
- Hyssop, cedar wood, scarlet yarn and a live bird were ingredients a priest used to sprinkle blood over someone who'd been healed of a "defiling" skin disease like leprosy.



Analogy For Our Consideration

■ Numbers 19:2-6

- It's interesting that the cedar was the highest tree and hyssop was the lowest shrub. One commentator referred to the contrast as the "heavenly nature" and the "earthly nature" of Christ, combine in one and the scarlet cord was the salvation that tied them together in His blood. The fragrant odor of the cedar reminds us that when Jesus offered Himself on the Cross, it was an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour (Eph 5:2). .



Our Need For Cleansing

■ Application To Our Life

■ Hebrews 9:13-15

- We are by our human carnal nature sinful and cannot fix ourselves.
- David's use of the imagery and words with hyssop shows us we don't have to stay stuck in that place. If we admit our need for God's touch and humbly ask Him to forgive us, He will bring a deep cleansing.