

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Abide in Me - Part 3

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Introduction

On the last week of His ministry, Jesus went to Jerusalem just as the Israelites were celebrating the Passover. He entered the temple court, which was the only place where Gentiles were permitted to worship God. This area had become a marketplace with money changers and animal trades, hustle and bustle, animal noise and excrement. Seeing all that was happening there angered Jesus. He was repulsed by how the temple had turned into a place of hypocrisy, greed and defilement. Fast forward centuries to where we are now. We are now the temple, both collectively as the church and individual. How are we treating God's temple today?

Read

Mark 11:15-19, John 2:13-22

Discuss

1. Think back to the last time you got angry. What triggered it? What did you feel before you were angry, when you reacted, and after you calmed down? Was it a different motivation to the anger Jesus expressed in our reading?
2. Re-read the Bible passage. Pastor Heather mentions that Jesus was angry because of the hypocrisy, greed and defilement. How were they displayed at the temple courts? Why do we need to know the reason of His anger? How does this relate to the topic "Abide in Me"?
3. Which of the following do you find most difficult to keep in check? Which is less of a challenge for you?

Hypocrisy — calling others out for things that we do ourselves.

Greed — turning our back from people in need.

Defilement — allowing sin to go unchecked in our lives.

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4. Jesus angrily cleared the temple courts. Now that you as an individual are His temple, how have you experienced this? If you have not experienced it yet, how might this look for you?
5. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. God is Holy and He desires for us to be set apart from the world and grow to reflect His character. How can you claim His promise?
6. Read 1 John 1:9. We live in a sinful world. As believers, we need to be willing to both acknowledge our sin and to be forgiven for our sin. What is your understanding of the need to confess your sin to God? Why can this be hard to do?

Respond

'Abiding in Him' means that God will bring us to a place of honesty, where He will cleanse us too. We cannot cleanse ourselves of sin in our own strength. Only by abiding in Him, and confession to God, can we be cleansed and forgiven. When we are willing to do this, and are walking closely with God, people can best see God reflected in us.

Take a moment of personal prayer to confess your sin to Him. As a group, thank God for His forgiveness and ask God how you can partner with Him this week to let people around you experience His love.