



May 3, 2020

F260 Bible Reading Plan

Week 17 (4/27/20)

2 Samuel 1, 2:1-7
 2 Samuel 3:1, 5, Psalm 23
 2 Samuel 6-7
 Psalm 18, 2 Samuel 9
 2 Samuel 11-12

Week 18 (5/4/20)

Psalm 51
 2 Samuel 24, Psalm 24
 Psalms 1, 19
 Psalms 103, 119:1-48
 Psalms 119:49-128

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:45-48

⁴⁵ When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’^[a]; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’^[b]”

⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

COMMENTARY

19:45. Having viewed the temple from the Mount of Olives, Jesus finally entered the city. For Luke, the first appearance in the city comes in the temple, the place where God’s Messiah would be expected to appear. Did he find worship of God and praise for the grace and mercy of the saving Lord? Oh, no! He found secular business in the sacred precincts. The religious establishment had cornered the market on sacrificial lambs and birds and on changing money into the coins that were acceptable for temple

offerings and purchases. The Pharisees and Saducees placed wealth above obedience. Jesus had to get rid of this. His Father's house must be pure and holy. Exit businessmen. Enter worshipers.

19:46. What authority did Jesus have for such actions? He had Scripture on his side. Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11 combine to show God's intent and the Jewish leaders' result. God established the temple as the place where his presence could be experienced and witnessed by the people. There his people could converse with him in prayer. Out of this conception of the temple grew the Book of Psalms with its prayers for all kinds of life situations.

But legalism had set in. Jewish rabbis established interpretations of laws and interpretations of interpretations. To be sure of obeying the law of sacrifice, a person felt obliged to purchase an animal at the temple. Other similar activities increased until commerce replaced conversation with God. The temple not only had commerce; it had a commercial monopoly. As usual with monopolies, prices rose to outrageous heights. Jesus described such monopolistic, price-gouging commerce as robbery. God could not stand for this. Exit commercial activities and animal stalls. Enter the royal king to reclaim his house for prayer and worship. The king had come not only to seek and to save the lost. He had come to save the temple from the thieves who occupied it.

19:47. The cleansed house of prayer became Jesus' classroom. Here he taught the disciples and the crowds about God's kingdom. The Jewish leaders ignored his teaching. They had one goal—to destroy him. They revealed their true nature as people who opposed and rejected the one who visited them in the name of the Lord.

19:48. The power block's plotting could not succeed. It was not yet God's time. God used the power of popular appeal to keep the religious leaders at bay. The people hung on every word of Jesus, spellbound by his authority and his unique style of teaching. The religious leaders dared not cause an uproar among the people. Then Rome would interfere. They would lose all power just as Jesus had predicted. So the stage was set. When and how would the passion predictions of the Messiah come true? In what way would this be a victory for the religious establishment? In what way would it be a victory for the sovereign plan of God to seek and to save the lost? How would the disciples react? How would the crowd respond?

MAIN POINT

Jesus is committed to removing anything that stands in the way of His followers bearing fruit for Him.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Reflect on your life's most significant achievements. What obstacles have you overcome in order to succeed?

Were any of those obstacles overcome for you? In other words, did anyone help you along the way, allowing you to be successful? Was the help always welcome? Share a specific experience if you feel comfortable.

Rarely do we achieve great success without experiencing multiple hardships and failures. We are also indebted to others who identify with our cause, come alongside us, and remove obstacles for us, even though we may not ask for such help. Becoming the kind of people God calls us to be requires that many obstacles and hindrances to a life of faith be removed. Through His Word, other people, and difficult circumstances, God is faithful to remove whatever hinders us from bearing fruit for Him.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- Ask a volunteer to read Luke 19:45-48.

Why did Jesus go to the temple? What is surprising about His reaction when He arrived there?

Why was Jesus so angry with the money changers in the temple? What was the purpose of the temple? How had the temple been corrupted?

Read Isaiah 56:6-8 and Jeremiah 7:11-15. How did Isaiah and Jeremiah describe the temple's purpose and its potential problems?

Jesus and the disciples went into the temple, the place where God was to be worshipped and praised, and found the temple courts filled with money traders and people selling birds and other animals for sacrifices. These merchants turned the practices of the temple into an opportunity for financial gain. Jesus quoted Isaiah 56:7, stating the temple should be a house of prayer for all nations. Instead, the Jews made Gentiles change out their money to make an offering. Jeremiah said that the temple would be turned into a place to steal and rob, and that was precisely what took place in Jesus' day.

Why did Jesus kick people out of the temple? Did Jesus have the authority to do this? Why or why not?

Why did Jesus choose to cleanse the temple but not to overthrow the government?

Read Mark 11:12-26. What did the temple and the fig tree have in common? How did the people respond to Jesus' authoritative actions in temple?

Jesus drove the people out of the temple, tossing tables and chairs. Jesus wanted to restore the true purpose of the temple. The temple was not fulfilling its purpose, although it looked like it would, just as the fig tree looked like it would be producing fruit. Some were amazed and pleased at Jesus' authority and teaching, but the Pharisees feared Him and sought to destroy Him.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Is there anything about our corporate worship that might reflect the practices taking place in the Jerusalem temple of Jesus' day?

Are there any obstacles in your life that you would sorely miss if God removed them so that you might bear more fruit and worship Him more genuinely? How is God calling you to respond to this realization?

If you were to analyze the content and frequency of your prayers, what would they communicate about your understanding of God and your faith in Him?

What steps can you take to insure that your prayers more accurately reflect Jesus' teaching in this passage?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus, who forever reigns as Messiah King. Invite Him to cleanse your life of anything that displeases Him and prevents others from seeing Him for who He is.