

ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE CONSUMES ME.

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On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” (Mark 11:15-17)

His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal (nlt – Passion) for your house will consume me.” (John 2:17 niv)

Imagine the scene?

The temple courts were bustling with commercial activity. Animals, people, noise. In comes Jesus and upsets everything.

His action was fulfilling Messianic prophecy: purifying - *Malachi 3:3*; pointing to the destruction of the temple and building a new one in Himself (*John 2:9*).

What grabs me about the disciple’s observation recorded in John’s gospel is the passion of Jesus for His Father’s house.

It makes me think about my own heart and desire for His house.

People can be passionate about many things: i.e., sport (Matildas), fishing, But what about The Father's House?

What did the House or household mean to people in ancient times?

Household (OT Hebrew) – *'byt'* – kinfolk, descendants as an organised body; Nation or tribes (i.e., Israel); paternal ancestry; household affairs, persons, property, belongings.

Household (NT Greek) – *oikos* – In Jesus' time: In Greco-Roman society it held much the same meaning as in Israel's history. It was the guarantor of stability and safety for people.

Strong families/households = strong nation. It meant survival and prosperity to belong to a good household. Think about Ruth and Naomi in the OT.

In the NT we see the term used to express theological ideas especially in relation the church, as we will see.

Household - Holman Bible Dictionary - (studylight.org)

Here we will look at the possessions, the people, the purpose, and the promise of God's House.

THE POSSESSION OF GOD'S HOUSE

God owns it. He owns everything. I think what disturbed Jesus most was that it was His Father's House and glory that was being violated.

Why?

He loved His Father and He knew His Father loved Him (*'this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased' ...Matthew 3:17*)

This passion for His Father's House was not a new thing for Jesus. It had been long held in His heart. I.e., Jesus at the age of 12. (*'I must be in my Father's House' - ...Luke 2:49*).

By disrespecting God's House, they were disrespecting His Father.

There is much instruction in the Bible as to how we are to treat the Household of God.

I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God.. (1 Timothy 3:15)

Examples: We are to come wholeheartedly, not half-heartedly. Symptoms E.g., Lateness; mobile phones.

We are not to come empty handed (*Deuteronomy. 16:16*); we are to come for our Father first, others second, ourselves last. Love the Lord your God with...? (*Mark 12:30*).

THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S HOUSE

Imagine you own a beautiful house full of beautiful possessions and beautiful children. A thief comes and breaks in and steals your possessions and your children!

God's story and our story is one of a loving Father seeking to get back His lost possessions and His lost children.

(‘The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that ?...John 10:10; ‘The Son comes to seek and to save that which was lost’...Luke 19:10)

but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, (Hebrews 3:6). Ephesians 2:19-22.

Not made of bricks and mortar but of people.

How should we treat the people of the House?

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S HOUSE

*'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'''
(Mark 11:17; Isaiah 56:1-17 read)*

It should never be a 'bless me club'. Jesus was angry. The people were a *barrier* not a *bridge*. In that sense they were robbing God and people.

We are to be *outreaching, missional, and welcoming*.

THE PROMISE OF GOD'S HOUSE

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2)

There **IS** a place for you!