

### Driving Out the Money Changers

*By Terry Bostic*

*On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area 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)*

Very rarely in the four gospels do we find Jesus displaying such righteous indignation as when he drove the money changers out of the temple. Did you ever wonder why this particular scene drove Jesus to react so intensely? Being that the temple that he was clearing out was merely a copy or shadow of the real one that was soon to come under a new and better covenant, why was he so quick to set things right in that which was soon to be obsolete and disappearing? (Hebrews 8:13) Many times when the Holy Spirit begins to show me things he sometimes starts out by asking questions and then gives me answers in the form of revelatory knowledge. This is what he showed me concerning driving out the money changers.

Within this profound story we will find great lessons to be learned for the modern day Church. This act performed by Jesus of driving out the money changers and those that sold doves in the temple was not so much a lesson for Old Testament Israel as it is for the New Testament Church. The Apostle Paul confirms this through his writings:

**“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.” (I Corinthians 10:6)**

Here, Paul was speaking to the Church. His divinely inspired writings are still teaching us today. Since scripture teaches us that many things and people will wax worse in “later times” then this message is most especially for the end time Church. The incident of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple was merely a physical forerunner of a problem in the latter day Church. Throughout the scriptures we will see a parallel of the earthly and the heavenly, the copy and the original. God has given us this to teach us valuable lessons.

The temple that Jesus entered in earthly Jerusalem was only a copy of the original in heaven. All believers have now become citizens of the real heavenly Jerusalem. Scripture declares:

**“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:22-24)**

The saints under the New Testament Church are now the real temple of God because they have come to Christ, been sprinkled with his blood and received a new and better Covenant. (I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19, II Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 2:21, Hebrews 9:11-15 KJV) The dove for us today is the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17) The sacrifices are our very own bodies. (Romans 12:1) Our house is to be a house of prayer (personal communion with God). We are now members of God’s very own household and have become his dwelling place by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22) If the Lord was so zealous for keeping a physical temple clean, how much more will he be zealous for keeping the spiritual temple clean?

There are modern day money changers that have come into the Church (God’s temple) as robbers and thieves. They are ravenous wolves who are fleecing the sheep. There are some that are always holding their hands out begging for money and selling the anointing (the dove) and deceiving God’s people by saying, “send money and God will bless you with this special message or prophecy”. They will tell you that they have been sent by God to help you to get to that special place or receive that special anointing that you have been seeking.

It is written that Jesus would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts and in John’s record of this story Jesus shouted, “How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” (John 2:16 NIV) It seems that a lot of ministers run their ministries like worldly businesses or big corporations. In the world it’s all about the money and sad to say in some modern day ministries it is as well. There are many ministries that sell everything and give nothing away for free. How different that this is from the Lord’s commands that he gave to his disciples:

**“Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)**

So how can you recognize modern day money changers? You will know them by their fruit or that is by what they *say and do*. They will brag on their wealth and boast of their belongings. They promise believers that if they send more money that they can become wealthy like they are. They elude that everyone is going to have this huge ministry and become famous, have expensive cars, mansions, airplanes and facilities. Many people wait patiently for these things yet wonder why they never “arrive”. Instead of prophesying truth into the lives of believers, they prophesy lies so that people will be deceived into sending them more money.

Year after year the lies of the money changing thieves have a place in God’s temple. As long as there are believers that receive them they will continue to operate and flourish. They lie to the saints and rob them by trying to sell God’s anointing and gifts which are not for sale because God has freely given all things to us. God has also shown us clearly in the

word that those whom he calls he will equip freely with his gifts *by grace*. (I Corinthians 12:1-11, Ephesians 4:7-12) The word tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and that the anointing we have received has come from directly from God. An anointing that has a price tag on it then is not real but is a *counterfeit*.

**“As for you, *the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.*”**

Jesus cleaned the temple then as a warning to us now. Is he not the Head of his Church and our Master? (Colossians 1:18, John 13:13-14 KJV) How much more will he cleanse the temple made without man's hands than the one that was made with man's hands? (Acts 7:48-50, 17, 24, II Corinthians 5:1) The Lord is once again clearing his temple of modern day money changers. We must allow the Lord to cleanse God's temple (us) today of those dens of thieves or those who try to sell us the anointing and gifts of the Spirit of God.

So how can we make sure that the money changers have no place in our lives and how can we keep from being deceived by them? First and foremost, we must put God first in our lives. (Matthew 6:33) We must look to God and not man. The bible admonishes us to keep our eyes fixed firmly upon Jesus for he is the author and finisher of our salvation. (Hebrews 12:2) As we look to him, he will protect us from deception by revealing what we need to know by his Spirit. (I John 2:18-27, 4:1-6, I Corinthians 12:10, *the gift of discernment of spirits*)

We must also present our bodies as living sacrifices unto the Lord and renew our minds daily with the word. (Romans 12:1-2) We should strive to “do our best to present ourselves to God as approved, workmen who do not need to be ashamed and correctly handle the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15) We must also stay close to him by spending quality time with him in prayer each day. To get rid of distractions in our lives, we can turn off the TV, radio, phones, ipods and computers during this time. We need to have this quiet time in order to let God train us to hear what his Spirit is saying *to us* so that we will not be so dependent on others to tell us what God is saying *to them*. The more time we spend communing with God, the more sensitive that we will become to his voice and leading. As we do this, we will not be so easily deceived by the tactics of the money changers.

So many money changers use prophecy to manipulate believers. Instead of equipping the saints for works of service and releasing them by the Spirit, modern day money changers must keep always keep dangling the proverbial carrot in front of you by “prophesying” that you that will be serving God “someday”. In doing this they are actually keeping you distracted from serving God today so that you will continue to sow into their ministries while you are waiting for this “word” to come to pass. We don't have to sow money in order for God's prophetic word to come to pass in our lives however. God responds to our faith, not our money. We do not have to sow money in order to serve God; we sow money so that we can support the work of the Gospel and to be a blessing to others.

The truth is you can serve God today by learning to hear his voice and obey his instructions. Take things moment by moment. Hearing the voice of the Spirit and obeying him is the path to your destiny! Look for opportunities at home, work, school, church or in

your own neighborhood. This is where serving the Lord begins. Ask God to teach you how to minister effectively- ask him what to say and to empower you to minister effectively to others for the sake of the Kingdom and to the glory of God. Whatever we need, the Lord will provide. Oftentimes we have not because we ask not. (James 4:2)

Allow the Lord and this word to cleanse your temple by putting out the money changers (thieves, ravenous wolves). Receive freely the dove (the Holy Spirit) and let God's light fill his temple (you) and let his word guide the steps of your daily journey. Follow the example of Christ and don't put up with the money changers. In the future when you sow offerings, make sure it's in good ground with good seed. Let God show you where to sow. If you're troubled in your spirit, that is a NO and that means STOP! If you're not sure then that's a yellow light which means you don't do anything until the light changes. When you have peace after asking and praying to God where to sow then this is a green light which means GO!

Although there are legitimate needs for those in the ministry today we should be able to differentiate between those that are serving God and those that are serving money. It is not wrong for Churches or ministries to ask for money when the need is genuine or a dream or vision of God needs fulfilling. The Lord does give us work to do that does require money to accomplish. There is a difference however between those that are using the contributions of the saints for the sake of the cause of Christ and the Kingdom of God and those who are using them for greed and to amass personal wealth. All of us will be judged by the Lord according to what we do in the body whether good or bad. We must all be wise stewards over what God has given us. We should all live our lives to please the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:9-10)