

Quiet Zeal

by A.W. Tozer

The sermon highlights the difference between godly and ungodly zeal, emphasizing the quiet and gentle nature of converted zeal.

Scripture: Isaiah 42:2, Matthew 23:15, John 2:17, Romans 12:11, Galatians 4:18, Philippians 2:14-15, Colossians 3:23-24, Titus 2:14, James 1:20, 1 Peter 3:15

Topics: "Quiet Zeal", "True Righteousness"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the distinction between noisy zeal and the quiet zeal that reflects true godliness. He critiques those who are overly zealous in their pursuits, often creating chaos and distraction, while highlighting that genuine zeal, like that of Christ, is marked by humility and compassion. Tozer illustrates this with an anecdote about a passionate advocate for animal rights whose efforts, though well-intentioned, ultimately led to futility. He reminds us that true zeal should not be loud and disruptive but rather a quiet, steadfast commitment to righteousness. The sermon calls for a deeper understanding of what it means to be zealous in a way that aligns with God's character.

Transcript

There are a certain number of persons that cannot rest until they are making a great noise and stirring up a world of dust. Their temperament demands that they be always burnt up about something. Their type of mind forbids that they let their friends and neighbors alone until they have come over on their side and gotten behind some sure-fire movement to save the world. They are perpetually dashing from door to door collecting signatures demanding the abolishment of this or the establishment of that. One such dear, tender-hearted little lady, deeply in love with the birds, appeared for years every time our state legislators met in Springfield and fervently pressed for a bill to muzzle all cats in the state!

So zealous was she that the weary lawmakers finally surrendered to her pressure and passed the bill. (It was later vetoed by the then governor, Adlai Stevenson.)

The truth is that though all godly persons are zealous, not all zealous people are godly. The zeal that accompanies sanctity is rarely boisterous and noisy. So great was the zeal of our Lord that it was said to have eaten Him up, yet Isaiah said of Him: "He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out." And it was He who excoriated the zealots who compassed sea and land to find one convert, only to make him more evil than he was before.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/quiet-zeal/>

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