

# The Violent Overthrow of God's House

by Carter Conlon

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*Jesus' violent overthrow of the money changers in the temple was a righteous response to the corruption and disregard for God's holy and established order.*

**Duration:** 51:24

**Scripture:** Psalm 79:12, Psalm 80:18, Matthew 3:7-10, Matthew 9:36-38, Matthew 21:10, Matthew 21:12-13

**Topics:** "Selling The Gospel"

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## Description

In this sermon, Pastor David speaks about the violent overthrow of God's house, referencing the story of Jesus entering the temple in Jerusalem. The city was moved by Jesus' presence, and the people recognized him as the prophet of Nazareth. Jesus then proceeded to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, overturning the tables of the money changers and sellers of doves. He declared that the temple should be a house of prayer, not a den of thieves. The sermon also highlights the compassion of Jesus towards the scattered and confused masses, comparing them to sheep without a shepherd.

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## Transcript

This message is one of the Times Square Church Pulpit series. It was recorded in the sanctuary of Times Square Church in Manhattan, New York City. Other tapes are available by writing World Challenge, P.O. Box 260, Lindale, Texas, 75771, or calling 903-963-8626.

None of these messages are copyrighted, and you are welcome to make copies for free distribution to friends. This is the violent overthrow of God's house. Father, I thank you for strength.

I thank you for the power and anointing of your Holy Spirit. Lord, without you I couldn't stand. I'd have no message.

There would be no message without you. I thank you, Holy Spirit, that you are the Spirit of truth. You were sent by Jesus to open the words of this book and to bring us into the very heart of God and to form the very heart of the Son of God in our inward parts.

Now, Lord, we want to be like you. Lord, we want to understand what you are thinking. We want to know your mind.

We want to have the ability to allow our own hearts even to open up that you might be formed within us. We ask you tonight to empower us to be able to hear this word. Empower me to be able to deliver it.

Speak to every life. Speak to every heart. Lord, we're living on the threshold of eternity now.

God, help us to hear, and not only to hear, but to give place to what you want to do in us and through us. We are your church. We are your bride.

We are your body. We are the house that you're building in this last hour of time, and you have set us and established us in a place for a purpose, O God. Lord, that purpose is burning in your heart tonight.

Let it be known to us. Make it clear. Make it plain, O God, to everyone who's come into this house.

Lord, from the most to the least learned, from the strongest to the weakest, may there be none who cannot understand this word tonight. Enable me to deliver it. God, I thank you for taking my mind and heart, my body.

I come to you in the frailty of this human vessel, and I thank you, Lord, that it's in the power of the Holy Spirit that I'm able to stand. Thank you, God, for the call. Thank you for the anointing that breaks the yoke of hell and darkness.

Thank you, Lord, that you will enable your church. You will enable us, O God, in this last hour of time to be the people that you want us to be, that we might be a bride bringing honor and glory to your name, that we might walk with you. Your word says, how can two walk together except they be agreed? We want to be in agreement with you.

We want our steps to be in line with your steps and our thoughts in line with your thoughts, our conversation in line with your conversation. O Holy Spirit, come and manifest Jesus Christ to us through the written word tonight. Speak to every heart.

Speak to my life anew and afresh, O God. Touch us, Lord, in areas maybe where we've never been touched before. Draw us, give us an understanding of your heart.

We thank you for this with all of our hearts in the mighty and holy name of Jesus. Hallelujah. Matthew chapter 21, the violent overthrow of God's house.

Beginning at verse 10, a story about Jesus when he came into Jerusalem. All the city was moved. In verse 10, Matthew chapter 21 saying, who is this? The multitude said, this is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money changers and the seats of them that sold doves and said unto them, it is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves. He comes into Jerusalem just at a time when everybody is following him. The multitudes are beginning to acknowledge him as a king.

They're saying, Hosanna, Hosanna to the son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. It seems like the whole of Jerusalem is a stir because of the magnificent power of this man.

And he goes, the very first thing he does, he goes into the temple and in effect, offends the religious order of his day overthrows. And in John chapter two, verse 15 says that he took a scourge. In other words, he made a scourge that says a small cords in effect, a whip and took it in his hand.

And John says, when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple and the sheep and the oxen. And he poured out the money changers money and he overthrew the tables. And in verse 16, the scripture says, he said, make not my father's house, a house of merchandise, the violent overthrow of God's house.

We see here an incredible righteous anger in Jesus concerning the state of his own house. In John chapter two, verse 17, the scripture says his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of dying house has eaten me up. And there's a measure of violence in this particular interaction of Christ with his own house and his own temple.

We see words like cast out, overthrew with a scourge drove, poured out. And again, we see overthrew in the book of John. And as I began to meditate on this particular scripture, as God began to speak to my heart about it, the question formed in my mind, why didn't Jesus just come into Jerusalem? Why didn't he just sit down and teach like at other times he had gone into other sinful situations.

He had walked into Pharisees houses that were living in debauchery and sin and ignorant of the ways of God. He had been where places where they had brought the woman taken in adultery. He could have made a scourge of cords and drove all of them out of the way that had put stones in their hands.

And he could have displayed fierce anger against what they were doing. He, I wondered, as I looked at this, why didn't he just sit and teach? Why didn't he just come into the temple and, and, and gather an audience and say, now you see folks, you see these things, the caps. And now this is not the will of God for this house.

And it is written. My father's house should be a house of prayer and begin to teach and instruct the people and somehow hope that the money changers would get the idea and the people would turn from their sin as he did in other situations. But we see something different happens here.

He walks into the temple and you see that the wrath of God in effect manifested in Jesus Christ, the son of God. We know that God, the son did not commit sin. And therefore his anger was both holy and justified.

And his anger was within the realm of, of God's accepted reason. We have to ask ourselves for what reason did Jesus of violently overthrow simple practices, which certainly were considered normal to the temple goers of that day. They were normal practices.

There's people sitting there selling doves. What harm could these people possibly be doing? Selling cattle, people changing money. It was an obvious need.

People come in from other cultures, other places, their currency didn't match. So there had to be an exchange of money, very practical things being done in the house of God. And yet we see such a fierce anger of God manifested against this.

And when I first looked at it, I said, God, there's got to be something more. There's got to be a reason why your anger was so, so fiercely in effect manifested in you. So violently overthrew the established order in your temple in that moment of time.

Now, in order to understand why he did this, we firstly need to look at the social conditions of the day into which Jesus had come. Israel, God's people was the apple of his eye. His people of promise who had once known his might, his power and his glory.

These were the people who had been brought out of darkness. They were the people of promise. They were the sons and daughters of Abraham.

He had shown throughout history, his desire to manifest his glory and his power and his protection. He had shown them clearly that no enemy could stand before them when they turned to him. He had clearly declared his desire to dwell in the midst of these people and to vanquish virtually all of their enemies.

And now he comes into the midst of the same nation of people. They're now occupied. They're controlled by a foreign and oppressive power.

We look at some of the conditions. Look in Matthew two, please just very quickly with me. Firstly, in the society of the day in which Jesus came, there was weeping for children in Matthew chapter two, verse 16.

Scripture says, then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked at, the wise men was exceeding rock and set forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem and in all the coast thereof from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy, the prophet or Jeremiah in Rama. There was a voice heard lamentation and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted because they are not.

And so he comes into the midst of his people. And in the midst of that society, there's a great weeping for children. Even though this was done when he was very young, there was a fresh memory of it.

And needless to say, this is perhaps one of the recorded incidences of the cruelty of the Roman occupiers towards their sons and daughters. But surely there were others too as well. And so there was a great weeping, just similar to the society we're living in today.

When pastor David spoke this morning about going out into the streets and seeing the graffiti that's written on this area that's blocked off to build a new building and seeing all the hurt and all the pain so graphically portrayed as the enemy comes in and a foreign power in effect, a spiritual power coming in and virtually rolling over and snuffing out the lives of our sons and daughters. This is the society that Jesus came into a society of weeping for children. Secondly, there was a rampant disregard for God's holy and established order beginning at the highest levels of both secular and religious authority.

In Matthew chapter 14 verses three and four, we see that Herod had laid hold on John the Baptist and bound him and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife for John had said unto him, it is not lawful for thee to have her. There was rampant immorality now at the highest levels of governing authority. And John the Baptist had a man ordained and anointed of God had stood up and risen against it.

And because of it, he was thrown in prison. There was no more disregard for the order of God from the very highest levels. And go back again, even to Matthew chapter three with me quickly.

Matthew chapter three and verse seven, even the religious order of that day was disregarding God's holy and established law. In verse seven, he said, John, when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said to them, oh generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come, bring forth therefore fruits, meat for repentance and think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father. For I say unto you that God is able to have these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. And thirdly, we see the masses of the people, God's people, those that he died for, not died for at this point, but those that he was going to die for, those that he longed together under his protective power.

We see them wandering around confused because for so long they had not been sitting under the true word of God. In Matthew chapter nine, again, verse 36, speaking about Jesus, scripture says, when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. Then said he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.

Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into the harvest. He saw the multitude scattered who were once his people, once had known his power, such a tremendous lineage, such a marvelous history. And now they were powerless and confused, traveling to and fro, running, looking for the word of God.

As I was preparing this, I was thinking the social order of the day of Christ, very well paralleled the day that we're living in today. I believe that upon entering the temple, the fury of Jesus arose because he had come to the source of all the distress that had come upon the nation. In order to understand his anger, we now need to look back and see the purpose for which the temple of God was originally established.

Now, this is important. We first see the social order. Now we're going to go and look at the temple.

And God had established a temple, a dwelling place that he said, this is where I'm going to dwell. And he had established it and designed it by a certain pattern for a certain means and for a certain purpose. Now, if you go back in the Old Testament, in 2nd Chronicles, I'll give you time to find the 2nd Chronicles, chapter six, we're going to go through a lot of scripture here because I want you to see something.

This is when, this is after David gave Solomon the pattern of this temple and David received it by the Holy Spirit. He gave it to Solomon. He laid up all types of materials that needed to be gathered to build this temple.

And then Solomon, after David's death, built the temple. Now we're going to look at, now God says, this is the place that I'm going to dwell. This is on the Mount.

This is right in the heart of Jerusalem. This is the place where God says, I'm going to, this is my house. This is my dwelling place.

And I'm establishing this house for a specific purpose. And we begin to see this purpose in the dedicatory prayer of Solomon. Solomon made an end of building the house.

The scripture says he went up before the people on a large scaffold and with a magnificent prayer, I know was inspired by the Holy ghost. He began to pray a prayer in effect of dedication of the temple of God. And in that prayer of dedication, he's thanked specifically the reason why God had established his house in the midst of the nation.

Now listen to this very carefully. 2nd Chronicles chapter six. We'll begin at verse 19.

This is the prayer of Solomon as Solomon says, have respect. Therefore to the prayer of thy servants and to his supplication. Oh Lord, my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee that thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night upon the place where all that has said that that was put thy name there to hearken unto the prayer, which thy servant prayeth toward this place.

Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant and of thy people, Israel, which they shall make toward this place. Hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven. And when thou hearest forgive now at verse 22, if a man sin against his neighbor and an oath be laid upon him to make him swear and the oath come before thine altar in this house, then hear thou from heaven and do and judge thy servants by requiring the wicked by recompensing his way upon his own head and by justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

In other words, Solomon is saying when we pray for justice to be done in this house, God, when we come into this house and we pray for justice to be done, Lord, hear us and let justice be done in the nation among the people. Verse 24, he says, And if thy people, Israel, be put to the worst before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee and shall return and confess thy name and pray and make supplication before thee in this house, then hear thou from the heavens and forgive the sin of thy people, Israel, and bring them again unto the land, which thou gavest them unto their father. So this is the second thing.

Solomon says, If we be put to the worst before the enemy, and we come into this house and confess your name and pray and make supplication, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people, O God, and bring them again into the land, which you gave to their fathers. Thirdly, verse 26, he says, When the heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against thee, yet if they pray towards this place and confess thy name and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them, then hear thou from heaven and forgive the sin of thy servants and of thy people, Israel, when thou has taught them the good way wherein they should walk and send rain upon thy land, which thou has given to thy people for an inheritance. This is the third thing.

He says, When heaven is closed, when there is no rain, there's no revelation of God, when the land comes into hardship, and yet if we come back into this place and confess your name and turn from our sin, then O God, hear and forgive. Verse 28, he says, If there be dearth in the land, that's in other words famine or drought, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting or mildew, locust or caterpillars, if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land, whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness there be, then, he says, what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man or of all thy people, Israel, when everyone shall know his own sore and his own grief and shall spread forth his hands in this house, then hear thou from heaven, thy dwelling place, and forgive and render to every man according to all his ways, whose heart thou knowest, for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men, that they may fear thee to walk in thy ways so long as they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers. Now go to verse 34, Solomon is still praying, he's still dedicating this house, if thy people go out to war against their enemies, by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and thy house which I have built for thy name, then hear from the heavens their supplication, their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

He says again, if they sin against thee, for there is no man which sinneth not, and thou be angry with them and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captive to a land far off or near, yet

if they bethink themselves in the land, in other words, they come to themselves and remember where they have fallen from, where they are carried away captive and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying we have sinned, we've done amiss and dealt wickedly, if they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whether they carry captives and pray towards their land which thou gave it to their fathers, and toward the city which you have chosen, and towards the house which I have built for thy name, then hear thou

from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee, now, he says in verse 40, my God, let I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, let thine ears be attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place, now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou and the ark of thy strength, let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, let thy saints rejoice in goodness, O Lord God, turn not away the face of thine anointed, remember the mercies of David thy servant, so Solomon is praying this prayer of dedication, and in effect he is laying the groundwork for this temple, this dwelling place of God, that it is to be established as a house of prayer, it's a house that

the people are to come to when they desire justice in the land, it's a house that people are to come to when they are put to the worst before their enemies, it's a house there to come to when heaven is shut up and there seems like there's no more rain and the pestilence begins to invade the land, come into the nation, even touch the cities, it's a place where when the enemies begin to besiege them in the cities of the land, they're to come in and spread their hands in effect before God in this house and say unto the Lord, forgive us our wicked ways the things that we have done, O God, and hear from heaven and come, it's a place where if the enemies of the Lord come in and are triumphing over the house of God, it's a place where Solomon says that we are to stretch out our hands before you,

and he says, O God, let your eyes be open, let your ears be attentive to the prayer that is made in this place, it is written, Jesus said, my father's house shall be called the house of prayer, and in chapter 7 now in verse 1, God responds to Solomon's dedication, God responds to the thing that he put in God's, in Solomon's heart, because it is his desire that his house always be a place of prayer, not self-consumed prayers, but prayers for the state, the well-being of the nation, for the people, for the children, for the land, for the presence of God, for the honor of his name, and now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the house, you see what was happening now, as God

was confirming the prayer of Solomon, God was confirming, yes, this is truth, this is pleasing to me, this is the place where my power dwells, Solomon, you have found my heart, you have found the place of my power, you understand now my heart, you understand why my desire to dwell in the midst of my people and to show myself strong on the behalf of my people, and now God speaks to Solomon to confirm it in chapter 7 verse 12, 2nd Chronicles chapter 7 verse 12, the scripture says, the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, he said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and I have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice, if I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people, if my people which are called by my

name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land, and now he says, listen to this in verse 15, he says, now my eyes shall be open and my ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place, he says, Solomon, I've heard you, I've heard everything that you've said, and if the land is put to the worst,

and if all hell seems to be coming against you and your enemies around you are coming in like a flood to swallow you up, Solomon, come into this house, and the things that you have said cause the people to do, pray, turn to me with all your heart, and I will do everything that I've said I will do, my eyes are open now, I desire to show myself strong on your behalf, my ears

are attentive to the prayer that's going to be made in this house, in fact, God is saying the forces of heaven now are waiting, they're at your disposal, just come into my house and cry out to me, when the locusts come against the land, when your children are wandering aimlessly in your city streets, when it seems there's a famine for hearing the words of God, when you're put to the worst before your enemies, come into my house and cry out unto me, cry out unto me, remind me of the fact that I am full of mercy, remind me of the fact that I am a father to the fatherless, remind me of the fact that I cover the widows, you have a heart for those that have nobody to speak for them and fight for them, this is the design of the temple of God, now Jesus enters the temple, many years later, built

again on the same spot, nonetheless been given the same commission, the same purpose, it was Jesus that spoke to Solomon, he comes into the temple and he remembers his promise to hear the honest heart cry of his people and what does he find, he finds a people who were once called by his name, displaying an incredible indifference to the plight of their nation and more importantly a callousness to the desires of his heart, he comes into the temple and says this is my, this is the place that I established, this is the house that I built and I'm waiting for the cry, I waited, your enemies come in, I waited, your children began to be killed, I waited, I waited and I waited and I waited, then finally God came down to earth himself in the form of his son, walks into the very temple that he had

come down in fire not too many years before and he sees this incredible indifference to the state of the nation, a callousness, an almost inexplicable callousness to the desires of his heart, do you know tonight how much God wants to fight for every soul that has nobody to fight for him, do you know how much that he wants to triumph over the powers of evil and darkness that are swallowing this generation right before our eyes, he wants to fight so much that he said his only begotten son to suffer the punishment and torture of a cruel and inhuman death so that you and I might go free and have that message of redemption to bring to those who sit in darkness, oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem he said how often I would have gathered my children together even as the hen gathers her chickens under her

wings and you would not, in other words he's saying I wanted to gather you, I wanted to fight for you, it is written he said my house shall be called a house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves, just as in Noah's day Jesus said in Matthew chapter 24 before the coming of the son of man they're going to be eating and drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, in other words a self-consumption, a nonchalant attitude towards the generation and the day that we're living in, God said there's a people in effect that have lost my heart, they don't understand the desires of my heart to fight for this generation, there's an incredible indictment against his people in Psalm 50, let me just read it to you verse 16 he says what have thou to do to declare my statutes or that should take my

covenant in thy mouth, in other words there's a people in Psalm 50, people of Israel who say we are people of the word, we are people of the covenant of God, now we're talking about the old testament, he said why do you say that that you're people of my word and why do you say that that you're people of my covenant and in verse 18 he makes an incredible indictment against Israel, he said when you saw a thief then you consented with him, now he's calling in effect some of his people of Israel, he said there's a thievery in effect, you saw a thief and you consented with him, now Jesus was not just angry because the

sellers in the temple were possibly dealing not fairly with the people, you see folks to stop here is to miss the reason for such an overthrow, he wouldn't have come into the

temple just because maybe somebody's cheating somebody else in currency exchange, no that's not it, these things might have been going on but that's not the reason for the righteous anger in the heart of the son of God, you see in John chapter 10 verse 10 Jesus said the thief that's the devil cometh not but for to steal and to kill and to destroy in Psalm 50 he says when you saw a thief you consented with him, the issue here is consent, this is what God is talking about, folks if you go into a store and you're standing at a store at a counter or somewhere and a person next to you opens a glass with the clerk unaware of it and starts filling his pocket with watches and you don't say anything and you don't do anything, you don't in effect raise an alarm, in effect even under the law you

have consented with that thief this is the end of side one, you may now turn the tape action, we have said that what you're doing is okay, we consent that it's good because we we don't raise our voice in opposition to it and so the issue is one of consent, it's to see a thief in action and to remain silent and to not cry out against it, consent is implied by a lack of action this is the issue, this is why Jesus made a scourge of cords, this is why he overthrew, this is why he drove out the sellers and the buyers, something had happened in his house and here's the issue, folks don't miss this, there was no cry in the temple, he was waiting for the cry and there was no cry, he had come to the source of the destruction that was raging all around God's people, the source, right back to the

very source, I'll tell you folks we see hell rolling over the western world and if we want to really get right down to where the blame lies, it's because there has been no cry in the house of God, no true intercession, no broken-hearted people empowered by the Holy Ghost, crying out to God, go back in history, there's never been a revival that hasn't come without somebody crying out to God and laying hold of him, read testimony books, there have never been men and women that have been used of God or miracles of God happening without somebody crying out to God somewhere, saying Lord look at your promises, look at the state of the nation, Lord if you don't come and intervene then nothing is going to change, no matter how much we plan, no matter what kind of schemes we master up, no matter

what kind of entertainment we provide for the people, how fancy our preaching is, if you don't come, nothing is going to change and Jesus walks into the temple and this is why the fury in the heart of the Son of God, he was saying in fact this is the reason why you're occupied by Rome, this is the reason why your sons and daughters are being slain before your eyes, there's a complacency, there's a coldness that's come into my house and the cry is gone, the cry is gone, you see the sacrifice that was to be brought into the temple initially was a sacrifice that men were supposed to count before they came into the house of God, now I want you to hear me on this issue, if a man sinned against the Lord, he was to go into his flock or his herd and perhaps he was to take a calf and it was to be

without blemish, in other words it would be a calf that would have brought him considerable return financially, he was to take that calf without blemish, perhaps take it with a rope and lead it to the temple and as he was heading for the temple, along the road he would be thinking about his own sin as he's leading away his own profit in effect and he's leading it to the temple to be offered up in sacrifice for sin, he'd be thinking about the error of his way, he's already counted the cost, it's already behind him, he's bringing it in and he's thinking about it and perhaps in the length of that journey, along the way he would look around him and say, oh God, I see what sin does, I see the cost of sin, I understand the penalty of sin and oh Lord, I look around me and I see my brother and

the Israelites, I see the things they're doing, I see what governors are doing, I see what those who are supposed to be leading your people are doing, oh Lord God, if they could only understand the price that they're going to have to pay for their sin and I believe that something would begin to work in this man's heart, by the time he got into the temple with this calf or whatever it is in tow and then offered it up to the priest, the priest in effect would offer it up as a sacrifice to God and I believe there'd be a cry in the heart of that man, oh Lord, forgive me for my sin, I see the price, the penalty for my sin, oh God, forgive the people of this nation, we've been swallowed up because of our sin and there's a cry and that's all God was ever looking for is that cry but you see what

happened is that the people all of a sudden, it shifted to convenience and everything in the temple was built around personal convenience, they were now selling calves in the temple, they were selling sheep and goats and doves and changing money and it was all in the temple and so the same man now is heading out from his place having sinned and maybe a necessity of making sacrifice and all the way to the temple now, what's he thinking about, how much is the calf going to cost me and then he would go in and it all, instead of coming in with a broken heart, instead of coming in having paid the price and counted the cost, he's now bartering in the house of God and what's in it for me, what kind of a deal can I get coming in and many many people now in this generation come into the house of

God and they're looking for what's in it for them and so if he got a good deal, he'd take the calf to the priest and the priest would offer it up and miter up his passionless prayers before God and he'd be standing there thinking, did I ever get a good deal, did I ever get off cheap for my sin, no cry in his heart, no understanding of what's going on around him, never having counted the cost and if he paid too much for the calf, then he would be in his heart, he'd be all angry coming before the Lord and saying, oh I paid too much for this thing, totally self-consumed, absolutely completely focused on self, lost the very heart of God, no cry for the nation, no cry for the children, this is why the anger was so fierce in the heart of Jesus, he came into what was supposed to be in effect the

link from earth to heaven, if we had spiritualized to see it tonight, you'd see millions of angels, hundreds, thousands perhaps waiting with sword drawn to fight on behalf of God's people and what they were waiting for is the cry because God had hooked himself into the cry and it's no different in our generation, God hooks himself into the cry of his people, those who lay hold of him, those who are not coming into his house self-consumed, those are not coming in just seeing what I can get out of this and how cheaply I can get off, I can get rid of my sin and it's not going to cost me too much, but they've counted the cost, they pulled the best out of the flock, they brought it in, they brought their lives before the Lord and said, God, I'll pay the full price, oh Lord, help us in this

generation, it is written in my house, shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves, we need to ask ourselves in this last generation, and this is something folks that I'm preaching to myself first tonight and I'm preaching it to you secondly, and the issue is this, where's your heart in these last days, where's your heart, God one time before was sending judgment against Israel and he said to Ezekiel the prophet, there was a man that stood beside him, the scripture says with an ink horn and he said to this man, he said go down and set a mark on the forehead of every man who sighs and cries for all the abominations that are committed in the land, there's always been a setting apart of those who in effect he was saying those who know my heart, those who share my

heart, mark them and set them apart for me, go to Psalm 79 please with me, Psalm 79, this is a psalmist called Asaph, a heart for the Lord, God is crying out to us as a church and he's saying I know with all my

heart he loves this church, he loves you, he loves me, he has opened heaven to us, he has placed his hand on us, he has called us to share his heart for this generation, listen to the psalm, he says oh God the heathen are come into thine inheritance, thy holy temple have they defiled, they have laid Jerusalem on heaps, the dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat to the fowls of heaven, the flesh of thy saints to the beast of the earth, their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem, there was none to bury them, we are become a reproach to our neighbors,

a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us, how long Lord will thou be angry forever, shall thy jealousy burn like fire, pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name, for they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his dwelling place, oh remember not against us former iniquities, let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us for we are brought very low, help us oh God of our salvation for the glory of thy name and deliver us and purge away our sins for thy name's sake, wherefore should the heathen say where is their God, let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy saints which is shed, let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee, according to the greatness of thy

power, preserve thou those that are appointed to die, oh God we are living in a generation where multitudes of millions are by the very sentence of their lifestyle are appointed to an eternal damnation, they're sighing if we could hear it with God's ears tonight, they're sighing all over the city, cries and God's saying Lord according to the greatness of thy power, this is the psalmist praying, preserve those that are appointed to die and render to our neighbors sevenfold in their bosom their reproach where they have reproached thee oh Lord, so we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever, we will show forth thy praise to all generations, I look at Psalm 80 verse 18 and this is the key, Pastor David said it this morning, we can't work this up, this is something

that the Holy Spirit has got to do in us and he says it this way in verse 8 18, he says so will not we go back from thee, quicken us, quicken us and we will call upon thy name, I was in my my office at home the other night and I was praying and I remember that night I laid hold of that, I have a leather chair that's opposite where I usually sit and I laid hold of that chair and I said God, Holy Spirit you have to quicken me, it's not even in me to care, left to my own resources I will walk to the temple every day, I will go every week, I will pass by the multitudes dying all around me, I will come into your house and I will offer up sacrifices of praise and all types of things in your house, but Lord I will grieve your heart because there's no cry in me, now folks this doesn't mean that

we we come into God's house and we spend the rest of our life with our face down in the carpet, there's joy in our salvation, there are times of rejoicing, but the church, now we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, you are the temple and I am the temple and the writing of God still stands, it is written my house shall be called the house of prayer and I know that one day I'm going to stand before God and he dwells in me and I wonder if he looks at me is he going to see a house of prayer, I wonder if he looks at the much of his church what is he going to see, by a house of prayer he means not just a place that has an exterior appearance of holiness and offering up sacrifice, but a house that is crying out to him, not just for themselves but for the land, for the children, for the leaders,

for the nation and most importantly for the honor of God himself, for his namesake, why should they say where is thy God, there's a cry in the heart I believe of those who truly lay hold of him, Lord why should they even be allowed to say where is thy God, why should they be allowed to mock Christ, Lord come once again in power, they can put on their concerts and blaspheme the name of Christ and rip Bibles to

pieces, but Lord I'm asking you to come in power and set up the weakest of us before auditoriums of our children in our schools, open the doors that no man can close and set the weakest of us there, with a heart that burns with the passion of God having come out of the prayer closet, calling on the fire of heaven once again to come down, to consume the power of the enemy, to

captivate the lies of darkness and to see men, women, children, teenagers released into the glorious kingdom of almighty God, hallelujah, hallelujah and it all begins if you look back in the life of any man, any woman ever used by God, any church, any age, any era, any revival movement, it began with a cry, just like a new baby the first sign that that child is alive is a cry and I believe once again in this generation God is looking for a cry not a cry that we work up in the flesh, but it starts this way, Holy Spirit quicken me, bring me alive, bring me out of the dead, if I am dead to the plight of my brethren then Holy Spirit call me out of the grave, quicken me, if the same spirit that brought Jesus Christ back to life dwells in us, he who dwells in us will also quicken our mortal

bodies, Holy Spirit quicken me, Holy Spirit quicken me, folks I want to tell you something, there's no more time for religion as usual, no more time, God's wanting to quicken us and he's not brought this message tonight to make anybody in this house feel guilty, if you feel guilty now you have not heard this message, it's come from the heart of God, it's because of the desire of God, it's because of his love for his church, it's because he's saying you are my beloved, you are my bride, I want to share my heart with you, I want you to see my power in operation in your life and in through your life before the day I come for you, there's a longing in my heart to reach every son, every daughter, every child, every young person, every country, every kindred, every tribe, every language, every

tongue to reach them, but will you let me come and will you let me quicken you, will you let me quicken you, the Lord has to quicken my mind, my thoughts, my life, my heart beginning to understand more and more all the time the absolute necessity that the fire in effect come down and consume this sacrifice, it's the very character and nature of Jesus, I can't cry out without it folks and if I do it'll only be the flesh and it won't last, I'm asking God for a lifelong cry to be birthed in my heart, a lifelong cry, not a sporadic flash in the pan so that we can tell everybody how wonderfully we're praying but a lifelong cry, does it mean that I won't have any more joy?

No, I believe with that cry comes times of dancing, I believe that I will rejoice, I believe that I will worship God in ways perhaps like I've never known, I'll see his power, see his glory, no, there's an absolute total balance of God that comes into that kind of a life but yet at times and seasons when I come into his house I won't be able to walk down the street anymore unmoved by what I see and tonight the Holy Spirit is speaking to us, all day we've heard from the Lord, it's all been about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit, I didn't know what my wife was going to speak on today, I didn't know what Pastor David was going to speak on but I knew last night that the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, you give an altar call tomorrow night after delivering this word

for everyone in my house who will just come and I'm not asking for tears nor emotion but will come having heard this word and say Lord this is reasonable and this is just for me and God I'm asking you by the power of the Holy Spirit to quicken me, quicken me, that means make me alive, make this vessel a house of prayer, quicken me, quicken me, he's not looking for anybody to get on a tangent, you don't and if you go home and beat yourself up you've not heard this word but those who want to be quickened, we're going to sing that song again, take me past all the praises, take me past the priests, take me past the people, take me past it all and Lord bring me into the place where you dwell, the Holy of Holies, let's stand, if that's

you tonight would you come to this altar and we're going to

pray together, up in the balcony you can go to either exit and come down the aisles and we're going to pray together after we have worshiped for a moment and ask the Lord to do this in our hearts Lord, Holy Spirit you're the only one that can birth this cry in the hearts of your people we can hear your word and we can come to the altar but Lord you're the one who has to do it within us so tonight Lord we surrender ourselves to your purpose, we ask that you would come and that you would awaken, Lord in every life and at every heart, please pray with me tonight Lord Jesus, forgive me for all the buying and selling, all the things in my heart that I have allowed into this temple that take me away from your purposes and your plans for my life I know that you love me and you desire to answer

my prayer I'm asking you Holy Spirit to place within my heart a cry that doesn't come from me but it comes from you working your thoughts, your life out within me, I surrender myself to this and I ask that the day I stand before you that you can look at me and you can say a house of prayer a house of prayer, now I want to pray Lord Jesus, I ask tonight with all sincerity of heart that for Times Square Church, this church that you have established, you planted it here, we have seen your glory here, we have seen your power here, lives have been transformed, God we've seen miracle upon miracle upon miracle, we've heard your word, you've withheld nothing from us, you've opened heaven to us, now Lord there's one thing that you're looking from us, you said my eyes are open now, my ears are

listening to the prayer that will be made in this place, oh Jesus help us tonight to meet that need of your heart help us by faith to lay hold of every promise that you have given to us in the word of God and to assault the throne of heaven until our enemies are defeated, till we see your glory manifested in our homes and in our lives, in our children, in our streets Lord, until the day you come Lord that we'd not give you rest, but Lord we would call down upon all the resources of heaven that you have made available to us oh Lord, Father thank you, I thank you that you've given us a clear word today, all throughout the day, you've called us to call upon you and you've asked us to ask you for a quickening, so Lord we ask you for that quickening tonight, Holy Spirit quicken us quicken us,

quicken our hearts, quicken our thoughts, quicken our minds, quicken us Holy Spirit, give us the strength, enable us to call out to you, enable us to lay hold of truth, enable us to lay down self-consumption, enable us to walk in unity with you and in unison with you, enable us to care for those who are being trampled down by the powers of darkness, oh Lord enable us to protect our hearts from becoming calloused and hard to all the violence and crime that is around us, help us to see oh God your heart, help us to understand your thoughts for this generation oh God, oh Lord we thank you for this tonight, God we praise you, we praise you, we praise you, hallelujah, we're gonna we're gonna sing that chorus one more time as we do, would you cry out to him now, you cry, everyone in this house

those that have come to the altar tonight and those that are still in your seats, you cry out to the Lord now, don't let don't let be me or somebody else putting the words in your mouth, you cry out to the Lord, you ask the Holy Spirit to quicken you and believe that he will, because he desires to, ask him for the quickening power, hallelujah, this is the conclusion of the tape

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