

DYING TO LIVE

July 14, 2024 | Pastor Dana Williams

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever tried to pay for something offered to you for free? What was the outcome?

READ: Mark 11:1-25

FOCUS: Jesus destroys fruitless religion and establishes His house of prayer.

OBSERVE:

- Jesus entered the temple and began driving out vendors buying and selling there. Referring to Jeremiah 7:11, He said, “It is written that the Lord said, ‘My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray.’ But you have made it a ‘den for robbers.’”
- God’s temple was meant to be a place of worship, prayer and true fellowship with Him. Unfortunately, it became a place where people bought forgiveness. This was not what God desired.
- Worship would no longer be based on rules, human transactions, a location, or a building. Our worship is through divine grace and surrendering to the only true God. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9
- Religion is fruitless unless we are united with the Father and abide in Him. To bear fruit, we must abide in Christ; on our terms, we will wither.
- As believers, we are the temple of the living God. “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” 1 Corinthians 3:16

REFLECT:

- Do you feel you can earn Jesus’ approval by being or doing enough?
- Have you been trying to gain God’s approval by your efforts?
- Is Jesus pleased with you as a temple?

TAKE ACTION:

- Remember today that salvation is completely by grace through faith, it’s not something we can earn. Decide to surrender completely to the Lord and let Him lead and guide you. That is the only way to experience true approval and contentment.

PRAY: *Lord, I don’t want to keep struggling through my life feeling guilt or disapproval. I desire to worship You in spirit and truth and find real contentment. Help me to surrender myself completely to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.*