

Zeal for God's House

by Wayne Goff

"Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!' Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up'" (John 2:13–17).

When was the last time you had a Jesus-like "zeal for God's House"? It was equally rare in the days of Jesus. But Psalm 69:9 prophesied of this event, Jesus fulfilled it, and the disciples remembered the prophecy!

Jesus was **infuriated** to find in the Court of the Gentiles those who sold animals to traveling Jews for sacrifice, and money-changers exchanging currency for profit. His zealous anger was because they had turned God's House into "*a house of merchandise*." This event was at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry and He repeated the act at the end of His ministry (see Mark 11:15-17; Matt. 21:12ff; Lk. 10:45ff). He said that God's House should be a place of prayer. Imagine that!

Today men have taken what they call "the House of God" and turned it into a (1) day care; (2) eating place; (3) coffee shop; (4) recreational facility; (5) book store; (6) social cause center; (7) wedding venue, etc. — Didn't Jesus say it ought to be a "*House of prayer*"? The zeal He had for His Father's house should be our zeal today.

Let's throw away the "social gospel" program which has "eaten up" the denominational world and some of our brethren, and return the House of the Lord back to a house of worship. Remember, dear readers, Jesus purchased the church with His own blood to redeem those in bondage, to save the lost, and to spread the Gospel to the world. When men pervert its purpose for more temporary, carnal purposes, then we should be **zealous** to stop it!

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