

HOSTING THE PRESENCE

#17. The Temple – Deliverance

7.8.18

Matthew 12:6 NIV I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.

I. Jesus and The Temple

- A. For his dedication on the fortieth day (Luke 2:22)

- B. Evidently he went to Jerusalem every year at Passover with His parents while growing up, and probably every year as an adult according to Jewish law (Luke 2:41; Exodus 23:14-17). The three Pilgrimage Feasts were Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

- C. For His dedication to The Covenant as a twelve-year-old boy (Luke 2:41-50)

- D. John gives an account of Jesus in Jerusalem on four different occasions: two during a Passover (John 2:13, 12:12), one during an unnamed festival (John 5:1); and also at the Feast of Tabernacles (Autumn - John 7 & 8), and remaining until or returning for the Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights, or Hanukkah (John 10:22). (A third Passover is mentioned in relation to the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:4.)

- E. He cleansed The Temple on two occasions.
 - 1. John 2 - “Do not make Father’s House a House of Trade!”

 - 2. Mark 11; Luke 19; Matthew 21 - “My Father’s House shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations!”
 - a) On this visit, He came in the day before, and evaluated activity in the Temple. Because it was late, He left and returned the next day (Mark 11:11).

 - b) During His last visit, He observed the giving that was taking place in the Temple, honoring the widow who had sacrificially given (Mark 12; Luke 19).

 - c) Mark 13, Luke 19, and Matthew give accounts of the Lord’s prophetic insight concerning the Temple.

- F. Jesus was found in the Temple by the man He healed at the pool of Bethesda (John 5).

- G. In John 7 and 8, Luke 21, Mark 14, and Matthew 21-23, Jesus did extensive teaching in the Temple area.

II. Why God's People gather

A. People came together to collectively worship God.

1. There is an exponential increase in the awareness of God's presence and power when Believers gather.
2. **Matthew 18:19, 20 NIV** "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
3. It may be said that praise has to do with God's actions, while worship has to do with God's nature.

B. People came together to be strengthened by The Lord.

1. **1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV** What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.
2. In a congregational setting we benefit from natural friendship and spiritual presence.

C. People came together to be trained to do the work of the ministry.

1. **Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
2. Training generally is done best in the context of community.

D. People came together to encounter the living Christ.

1. **Luke 5:15 NIV** Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

E. People came together to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to do the work of the Kingdom.

1. **Mark 3:13-15 NIV** Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

2. **Mark 16:20 NIV** Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

III. Christian Life Lessons

- A. The manner of our worship matters to God (Revelation 2 and 3).

- B. It is easy to lose track of the reason the Temple exists.

- C. When the fear of God is lost, worship degenerates quickly.

- D. Jesus takes great offense at any structure in His Temple that makes it difficult for people to approach Father.

- E. Jesus is insistent that we must worship God in Spirit and in Truth (with understanding and sincerity).