

The Gospel According to Luke

THE HEART OF CHRIST

PART 10

Correcting the Wayward

READ: LUKE: 19:45-48

INTRODUCTION

When we read this passage we can often miss what Jesus' heart was when He kicked out the sellers. We can be tempted to think that Jesus was acting out of anger towards the people and reacting to what He saw. What was actually going on was much more meaningful and powerful when we see how much Jesus was protecting and loving His people. He had just finished lamenting over the city of Jerusalem and how lost His people were. Jesus had a deep love and care for His people and expressed that love and that heartache for them and, as always, He wanted to see them turn to the Father and avoid the inevitable downfall that would come.

When Jesus starts to drive the sellers out, He quotes the Old Testament where God condemns the practice of profiting off of the people who are required to come to the Temple and sacrifice. (Is. 56:7, Jer. 7:11) Jesus, in casting these people out of the Temple, was showing His love for His people as He continued to lament where they had gotten to and how they had lost their way in seeking God. Part of caring for people is to protect them from those who would cause them to be misguided and miss out on a relationship with God.

Through His casting out the money lenders, Jesus had solidified the desire in the Pharisees hearts to try and kill Him. His words were causing a heart change in many people who were listening and the leaders wanted to do anything they could to stop Him from creating more issues for them. Jesus was pure in His desire to see people grow closer to the Father and was able to speak with authority and He was able to reach people in a way that the Pharisees couldn't. This is the love that Christ shows us. He fights for us, He defends us, and He protects us.

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever thought of this passage as Christ showing love towards the people? What influences our perspective in thinking that Jesus was exclusively acting out of anger?
2. Why did it bother Jesus that the money lenders were in the Temple? What was their wrong?
3. Have you experienced God's chastisement? What encouragement can we take from God protecting us, even from ourselves?
4. Why were the Pharisees angry about Jesus casting out the money lenders? Are there things in your heart or life that need to be cast out in the same manner?
5. How does it feel to know that God will protect you and fight for you?

WRAP UP

Jesus fought for His people and was brokenhearted that there were those who would misguide them. He was angry about the fact that His people were being taken advantage of and wanted to help redirect them into right relationship with the Father and protect them from wrongdoing. He fights for us too and will help guide us to a right relationship with God through studying His Word and seeking His face.