

The Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord

Jeremiah 7:1-11

2/23/03

Intro

- We praise God for the safety of our youth!!

.....
In these verses, Jeremiah begins a new message to the people, and he is delivering this message at the gate of the Lord's house, the temple of the Lord.

It is very important to understand what is happening historically in order to understand the message Jeremiah is giving.

Josiah was reigning as king at this time. He was not like the king before him, Manasseh, who reigned terribly for 55 years. During Manasseh's reign, the people built altars to false gods, sacrificed their children to Molech, allowed temple prostitutes of foreign gods and the faith of Israel was gone.

But when Josiah came to power, he was very different. He tore down the altars of Baal, and removed the prostitutes and high places and ground the altars to fine powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

The Josiah decided to repair the temple of the Lord. He collected funds from all the people and gave it to Hilkiah to hire workmen. While this was happening, Hilkiah happened upon a copy of the Old Testament. The Word of God had been out of use for almost 250 years. When Josiah read the words in it, he tore his clothes and became tender and humble before the Lord.

He then decided to have a Passover celebration like no other. When the people come to celebrate, Jeremiah is there at the gate giving this message.

These words are very good for us to hear as well. May the heart of Jeremiah's message land on ready ears.

This message has to do with their thinking that now that they had the temple of the Lord repaired and were coming to worship that all would be well.

I. Do not trust in lying words.

A. They thought the temple would save them

- Surely God would save them since they had rebuilt the temple.
- But God wanted more than a rebuilt temple, **He wanted rebuilt lives!**

B. They thought a great Passover would save them

- This was the largest Passover in the history of the nation of Israel. 30,000 offerings, plus 3,000 bulls.
- The Pharisees took this to new heights.

Illus – Today, many people just want their consciences appeased, but have no intention of actually changing.

C. Today, people trust in what they believe

- It's not enough to simply believe.
- **But if we believe in God, then it should that believing should affect my living.**

Illus – If I say that I believe that the building is in fire, but continue on without responding, it's an indication that perhaps my believing is useless.

James 2:19 – You believe God is one, even the demons believe this and shudder. Faith without results is useless.

II. Amend your ways and your deeds

A. God wants truth in our transactions

Vs 5

- Meaning that our faith should affect our relationship with our neighbors.

Vs 6

B. God wants a heart that truly cares for others

- Throughout scripture see God's heart for the orphan and widow.
- It's an indication whether we have the right heart.

Vs 9

C. Do we also do the same things?

- **Stealing** – are we honest in all our business dealings?
- **Murder** – Jesus said that even anger in our hearts, grieves the heart of the Lord.
- **Committed adultery**- Jesus said that harboring lustful thoughts is to commit adultery in our hearts.
- **Swear falsely** – Jesus said let your “yes” be yes.

III. Is the temple a den of robbers?

Vs 11

A. Now, we are the temple of the Lord

- **I Corinthians 3:16, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?”**

B. May our hearts also be cleansed

- In Jesus' day they were taking advantage of the things of God for personal advantage.

Matthew 21: 13, “It is written My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.”

- Some people have ulterior motives for their religion.

Illus – There was once a boy whose father was Jew and a businessman who moved his family to Germany, and once there decided to stop being a Jew and become a Lutheran. “But why do we do this?” the boy asked his father. “Because people will accept us and we need this for our business.” His name was Karl Marx and the rest is history.

C. First He cleansed, then He healed

- **Matthew 21:14** – But then the blind and lame came and he healed them.

Conclusion

Illus – When I went to college, I joined a fraternity. At first I was surprised at the degree of worldliness. But soon it took hold of my life.

One day, I walked out of there on a Sunday morning on my way to church, realizing that I was the only one.

But then the Lord convicted me. “But you’re doing the same things, but just coming to church to feel better.”

I couldn’t do it anymore, I moved out and learned to worship.

The one thing that God desire more than anything else is simply a heart for Him that is sincere.