



Did Jesus Throw A "Temper Tantrum"?

While Jesus was in Jerusalem one time, He saw people in the temple grounds that sold animals for sacrifices and changed money out, making a heavy profit from the people who came to worship God there. Jesus was so angry that "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" (John 2:15).

Why did Jesus do that? Did He go crazy for a few moments?

As we keep reading (verses 16 and 17), we understand why He was so upset: the businessmen were perverting God's purpose for the temple. It was supposed to be a place of prayer and worship, but they made it "a house of merchandise." God's Son, Jesus, was eaten up with zeal for His Father's house, and had every right and authority to kick out the people who tried to corrupt it.

Don't churches do the same thing today? God's house, the church, is "the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). God's people "offer up spiritual sacrifices" (1 Peter 2:5) of prayer and praise in the church. But many churches are infested with greed and selfish ambition. They focus on money, they bring sports and dances and other recreation into God's house, they construct huge, fancy cathedrals. If Jesus came into these churches, He would surely bring a whip with Him to drive these things out, just like He did in the temple.

As members of the church in Piscataway, we strive to follow God's pattern for the church. We worship Him the way He asks us to in His word, doing no more and no less. We pray (1 Tim. 2:8), we sing with only the words of our mouths (Eph. 5:19; Heb. 13:15), we share the Lord's Supper every Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26), we take up a collection of money, which goes to needy Christians or to evangelism (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and we study God's word together (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

We also strive to organize the church the way the New Testament shows us. Since this church does not have multiple men that fulfill the requirements to be elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7), we do not have elders (or pastors, as other Scriptures also call them, Eph. 4:11). All members are equal; the preachers are no higher than the other brothers.

If you have any questions about what we do or why, let us know and we will be happy to explain the reason.

By Brigham Eubanks