

AN EXHORTATION

TEXT: MT 2:12-14

TOPIC: YOU DAILY NEED CHRIST TO SWEEP UP MESS

What is your concept of God when you bring worldly activities in the church as if the whole wide world is not wide enough to contain our worldliness.

Generally, the Lord Jesus Christ was grieved and embarked on a cleansing of the temple, and indeed it was cleansed and set apart for the purpose for which it was built. "House of Prayer." This was a real and terrible happening- though symbolic, because you are the real temple of God. The sanctuary so translated into a den of robbers became a place where on stepping into, even the hearts of men were put off from worshipping God to thinking of how to rob somebody. Yes friends, the temple literally would have been corrupted, but worst of all and most hit were the men who attended it. Your heart is the temple of God and do you corrupt it? Have you turn it into a den of corrupt practices? A den of ill deposit, a den of falsehood, lies a den of wickedness and evil? For any thing good to come out of it, you need to have Jesus come in there, cleanse it up, turn the tables of misgiving therein and have it scrubbed, cleansed and mobbed and set apart for the purpose of it original creation- prayer to God. For unclean, corrupt, polluted and defiled hearts can't access God. Every righteous person has a right to exercise and exhibit righteous anger. Jesus seeing the corruption in the temple did. The perpetrators of this knew the truth, knew the right thing, knew that they were misusing the temple, for the knew that it was not a market place. When our heart as the temple of God is not put to the use for which it is created- the righteous worship of God, but have let unwholesome acts penetrate and take habitation therein and yet still bear and call on the name of Christ, note that in that state Christ is no longer happy with you but is angrily waiting to bulldoze it, upturn and cleanse every table and mess in it and make it once more a house of prayer, a dwelling place for the Lord, a place of communion, a place of blessing, healing and strengthening, a place of revival and renewal.

Dear people of God, aware that the Lord your creator watches your heart every day, do you know that he knows what activities go on there? The thoughts you take and the plans you make? Are you aware that you are either a source of pleasure to him or a stench? Most importantly, he is ever interested in you in spite of what might have become of your life, your degree of derailment notwithstanding, he still wants to save you- he is willing to come into your mess and to evacuate it all up, wash and disinfect it with the Holy Spirit and to make it neat, clean and lovely to the Lord. He is knocking at your door, will you let him in, will you give him the job for which he applies the lowly and minor job of coming into your mess, your stench and to take it, upturn it, wash, mob and make it anew? When he got into the life of Mary Magdalene, her mess of seven established and settled demons was evacuated. Same was the case with the Samaritan woman, who though had messed up her life, was transformed into a life that welled up into a spring of living waters. Zaccheus never reminded the same, he became the first example of restitution payment on meeting the mess cleaner- Jesus Christ. Even St. Paul the great Evangelist would never have been one without allowing Jesus accessing and changing his heart.

You will notice that it was only after Jesus restored the dignity and holiness of the temple thus reclaiming it to its original purpose- a house of prayer, that we hear of the blind and the lame coming to him therein and were healed. Beloved, the mess in your heart and life, the temple of God, is a great

blockade to the Lord's good following there from. Until you let Jesus Christ in, allow his total cleansing and upturning of every act of evil and wickedness, every act carnal and fleshy, every act worldly and selfish, that heart and life of yours remains a den of corruption, pollution, defilement and an appalling stench to the Lord. But the moment you let Jesus take over, sweeps, washes, mops, disinfects and sterilizes it, he also goes on to fertilize it and make it productive, bearing fruits of righteousness, holiness and purity. Will you in retrospect now search your heart? Be sure of what use you have put it to of late. Has it been sanctified for the Lord's use? Has it been where grace flows out onto the needy. A place where humility and sacrifice of Christ are enshrined. A place where the Lord God Almighty is glorified and mankind edified. Is it a sanctified sanctuary of the Lord? A place of worship, and a moment by moment worship place of the Lord? If today the Lord pays a surprise visit to your heart as he did to the temple, what would he find it to be like? Will it anger him or please him?

Jesus by his emotion and action has taught that it is absolutely right to be angry about sin and sinful acts. That indeed is part of the manifestation of our zeal and passion for the house of God and the things of the Lord. For if sin does not annoy us, then we must be open confessors of Christ, but secret compromisers of his ways and standards. Be angry at sin and act out to make the difference as the Lord is glorified and the benefits accrued to humankind.