

BUFFAT STUDENT MINISTRY

MONDAY

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS



Luke 19:45-48 & Matthew 21:12-13

Exchanging sacred for secular. As always, we need to look at the context of the passage. A few important notes to understand what is going on here:

- It's almost Passover, so Jews from all over the place had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.
 - It would've been booming with people paying the temple tax and buying animals for offerings... lots of money.
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- Add in the religious elites who have proven themselves to be greedy in other interactions with Jesus and the tax collectors who are basically thieves.

All of this plus the fact that Jesus is preparing himself to go to the cross for the sins of the world sets the stage for Jesus to “cleanse” the temple.

He has righteous anger because this thing that is supposed to be sacred has been exchanged for something secular and sinful. We know from the Old Testament that the temple represented the presence of God among his people. So for it to be a place where people were blatantly sinning was heartbreaking for Jesus!

I wonder, what do we allow to enter into our lives and keep us from the sacred? Did you know that when we sin against God it breaks the heart of Jesus just like it did when he saw what the temple had become back then?

Reflect

What are ways you see people in our world exchanging the sacred for the secular?

What about the church? Has the church cut corners, watered down, or tried to impress in a way that is taking away from God?

What are some ways you’ve seen the church (any church) trade the sacred for the secular?

In your own life what have you allowed to invade your relationship with God?

How can you push back on that? How can you fight this in your own life, in the lives of others and in the church?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you to see things the way Jesus sees them.
2. Pray that God would help you to have discernment in life.
3. Pray that God would help you to keep a Christ-like reverence for the things that He cares about.
4. Pray that God would allow you to help others to grow in these areas as well.