

CLEANING THE HOUSE OF GOD #2

Last we learned what happens when Jesus comes to the temple. Today we take a lesson from Hezekiah who discovered the house of God in filth.

2Chron. 29³ In the first month of the first year of his reign, he **opened the doors** of the temple of the Lord and **repaired them**.⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side⁵ and said: “Listen to me, Levites! **Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the Lord, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.**⁶ **Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the Lord our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the Lord’s dwelling place and turned their backs on him.**⁷ **They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel.**⁸ **Therefore, the anger of the Lord has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes.**⁹ **This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity.**¹⁰ Now I intend to make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us.¹¹ My sons, **do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.”**

I remind you that anything we say about God’s temple is not just applicable to His church but also to US. We are the temple now.

I Co. 6:19 and 2Co. 6:16.

I. HOW DOES TEMPLE DOORS GET CLOSED? VS 6-7

A. Unfaithfulness- “our fathers were unfaithful” v 6

Ill. 1Co. 7¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving **depart**, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases*: but God hath called us to peace. KJV

I had person express to me that two people can live in the same house and not be “joined”. They said, “We live in the same house, Watch television in separate rooms, eat in separate rooms, sleep in separate rooms and have separate checking accounts. That is departure.”

This person was simply saying, “There body is here at home but they are gone!”

Matt. 18 ⁸ These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

That is departure and unfaithfulness!

B. Continuing to practice the same sin- “they did evil in
The sight of the Lord” v 6

C. Forsaking the Lord

They forsook the Lord v 6 - the Lord did not forsake them.

1. They IGNORED GOD’S HOUSE- “they turned their faces from
the Lord’s dwelling place.” V 6

It is a danger sign when people began to miss church deliberately.

They are not get the Word nor worship but are losing focus on the reason
for God’s house.

2. They IGNORED GOD’S WORD- “they turned their backs
on him.” V 6

The more one misses church the easier it is to get away from God.

The more one misses the easier it becomes. To ignore God’s house and
God’s word leads to open sin.

II. WHEN TEMPLE DOORS ARE CLOSED....

A. Worship stops. - “they did not burn incense” v 7

B. Repentance and God’s plan of salvation is ignored. - “They did
not ...present burnt offerings at the sanctuary...” v 7

C. Filthiness replaces righteousness. V 5

1. The NIV uses the word “defilement”. The KJV uses the word
“filthiness”.

2. The Hebrew word is “**niddah**” meaning:

a. REJECTION-

When you have an area where you feel rejected, you will always reach out to
something or someone else to fill that area of rejection. In many cases this
need is met or **fulfilled in immorality**.

b. IDOLATRY- whatever we replace God with is spiritual adultery.

c. INCEST-

D. Families are lost

V⁹ This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity.

E. There is a lose of “revelation”

V7 “put out the lamps”.

III. HOW TO OPEN TEMPLE DOORS THAT ARE CLOSED.

³ In the first month of the first year of his reign, he **opened the doors** of the temple of the Lord and **repaired them**. ⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side ⁵ and said: “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the Lord, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.”

A. Repair the doors-

Doors are for the purpose of **entrance**.

Rev. 3 20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.”

Do whatever it takes to let God know that you are serious about welcoming him in your church or life!

B. Consecrate the leaders.

Priest and Levites- cleansing starts with the leadership. Before the King can enter the leadership must be holy. We need to get the rubbish out of our life.

Before we can help others become clean we must be clean!

C. Clean God’s house

V 5 Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.

It may take a while. It took the Priest and Levite’s 16 days to get rid of the debris in God’s house. Don’t stop till you get it all.

It will take everyone to clean the house! Remember....

It is the King's command to restore the temple. He could not enter the holy place.

It is the Priest job to enter the holy place.

It is the Levites Job to dispose of the waste.

We all must do our part.

Don't forget your responsibility to the house of God.

¹¹ My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense."