**House of Prayer**

**Luke 19:41-48**

**May 19th, 2019**

1. **Repurposed Vs 41-46**
2. **House of Prayer Isa. 56:1-8**

God intended his Temple/House to be an inclusive place for all nations where his Word was revealed in response to prayers that sought to know and obey his will/Word.

1. **Den of Robbers Jer. 7:1-20**

Those who disobeyed God’s Word to become unjust and rapacious were deceived into thinking they would be safe from God’s justice in God’s Temple/House.

God’s House of revelatory prayer’s repurposing as a sanctuary from God’s justice by Jerusalem’s rapacious leadership resulted in Jerusalem’s failure to recognize Jesus’ coming as God to bring her peace.

***When churches’ leadership deemphasize or set aside prayerful handling of God’s Word during worship services, churches are repurposed to become dens of robbers.***

1. **Reclaimed Vs 45-47a**

Jesus reclaimed the Temple court from the leadership’s misuse so he could accurately teach God’s Word to reveal God’s saving purposes to those who were prayerfully seeking those purposes.

***Those who personally reclaim Sunday worship for seeking God’s will so they can obey him will find what they seek when God’s prayerfully discerned Word is taught.***

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1. **Reception Vs 47b-48**

Jesus’ teaching of God’s Word to reveal his saving purposes divided listeners into resistant enemies who hated him for exposing their evil and those hungry for his every Word.

***God’s prayerfully discerned and taught Word divides its listeners into different categories according to the congregants’ preparedness to receive what is taught.***

**Summary:** The prayerfully discerned and taught Word and its reception by prayerfully prepared worshippers is essential for Elliott becoming the inclusive church of mature multiplying disciples God intends it to be.

**Questions**

1. What would you expect to happen where the teaching of the prayerfully handled Word of God is set aside during a church’s Sunday services?
2. How can Elliott’s leadership make sure that she is never repurposed from being a house of prayer into a den of thieves?
3. What are some things we can do to personally reclaim Sunday worship so that when God’s prayerfully discerned Word is taught we may actually hear his voice speaking to us?

Which of these things do you presently do that you find helpful?

Which ones are you not doing that if you did them would help you be a congregant ready to hear and obey God’s voice?

1. What possible categories can listeners of God’s revelation fall into depending on their preparedness to receive God’s prayerfully discerned and taught Word?

Which one best describes you most Sundays?

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