



DECISION #2

Life Group Study, Week of 3.8.2020

Memorize

And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?"

Mark 11:17

Open. Which of the following has greater access to God? Explain your choice.

- a. A priest
- b. A pastor
- c. A person in a pew
- d. A pagan

Study.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's teaching on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions did it raise for you, if any?

Read Mark 11:15-19

The temple in Jerusalem stood as a reminder of the presence of the holy God among his people. To enter the inner courts of the Temple built for the Jews by King Herod, one had to pass through an area that was supposed to be left open to everyone. It was called the Court of the Gentiles. It was in this area that merchants and money changers had set up shop.

What legitimate presence might the money changers and pigeon merchants have had in relation to the Temple sacrificial system?

In that light, what do you think may then have been the source of Jesus' rage about what the moneychangers and pigeon merchants were doing?

Read Isaiah 56:6-8, the passage from which Jesus quoted as he cleared the merchants.

What is the overall feel of the passage? What stands out to you?

What greater insight does the broader context provide as to the cause of Jesus' reaction to what was happening in the Court of the Gentiles that day?

Do you see any applications of these two passages for the church today? Are there any ways that you have seen churches prevent people far from God from drawing closer, whether intentionally or inadvertently? If so, what?

What insights do you have to offer that would help our church to become a house of prayer for all who want to know God? How can you help?