

Victorious: My Pure, Prayerful, Preaching, Powerful House
Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 21:12-14 NASB95] 12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN." 14 And [the] blind and [the] lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

[Luk 19:45-48 NASB95] 45 Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'AND MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN." 47 And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him, 48 and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.

- The church took a hit COVID. We are still recovering. This world needs a strong church.
- Humans have the tendency to get distracted and out of balance. We major on the minors and minor on the majors.
- When Jesus comes to the temple He finds it distracted and out of balance. He did it twice. Once at the beginning of His ministry (Jn 2) and at the end of His ministry (Matt. 21, Lk 19, Mk 11).
- He defined what the “house” of God should look like.

According to Jesus, what should the “house” of God look like?

There are four characteristics of the “house” of God according to Jesus.

I. Jesus expects the house of God to be pure.

- a. [Mat 21:12 NASB95] 12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.
- b. Those things were ok but had gotten out of order and corrupt. AT Robertson: charging exorbitant prices (robbers.)
- c. The church should be a place where people are zealously worshipping God from a life that reflects godly character.
- d. From the 1st cleansing of the temple: [Jhn 2:17 NASB95] 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."
- e. God is still expecting the church to live pure in motive and devotion, see Rev. 2 & 3.
- f. Repent of lack of devotion or impurity of life or motive in the church.

II. Jesus expects the house to God to be a place of prayer.

- a. [Mat 21:13 NASB95] 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN."
- b. Again, activities were good, but out of order.
- c. We need the Presence of God that comes from truly engaging Him.
- d. Corporate and private prayer life. Engage Him in however you engage Him. The darkness of this world is too strong to live without His Presence.
- e. The church came together to pray [Act 4:31 NASB95] 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and [began] to speak the word of God with boldness.
- f. We are as powerful as we are truly prayerful.

III. Jesus expects the house of God to be a place where God’s Word is preached.

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- a. [Luk 19:47-48 NASB95] 47 And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him, 48 and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.
- b. Much of the NT is sermons preached to the church. Despite what some say, the primitive church, had preaching as one of its priorities.
- c. [2Ti 4:2 NASB95] 2 preach the word; be ready in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- d. The church must learn to honor the releasing and receiving the preached Word.

IV. Jesus expects the house of God to be a place where people are healed and delivered by His Power.

- a. [Mat 21:14 NASB95] 14 And [the] blind and [the] lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.
- b. [Mat 4:23 NASB95] 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
- c. The church should be a place where healing and deliverance takes place.
- d. Much healing and deliverance takes place when there is purity, prayerfulness and preaching!
- e. Contend for the supernatural. Resist becoming immune to the ministry of the miraculous.

- Jesus wants His house to be pure, prayerful, full of preaching, and power.
- We repent for lack of zeal, dedication, and purity.
- We commit to corporate and private prayer.
- We give honor the releasing and receiving of the preached Word of God.
- We pursue the supernatural expression of His miracles in people's lives.