



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 30, 2026

To Know Christ...

If you flash back a week before Jesus' resurrection, He humbly rides on a donkey down the western descent of the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem. The crowds lay down their coats and even palm branches in worship and praise, shouting, **"Blessed is the KING who comes in the name of the LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"** [Luke 19/John 12] With this scene of worship and joy, it is hard to imagine that in a matter of days Jesus would be crucified. He certainly is aware; He knows it is coming. Jesus even weeps over Jerusalem (I wonder if He was still riding upon the colt). [Luke 19:41-44] He knows the opportunities the 'city of peace' had by His presence and teachings, yet the truth was cast aside. The Saviour was rejected by the religious leaders, not merely rejected ... **HATED!**

Aware of the crowd behind Him (I wonder if the residue of tears was still on his cheeks), Jesus enters the temple to see how grotesque this 'spiritual' place has become again. He drives out those who were buying and selling, no longer allowing merchandise to be even carried through the temple courts. (THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR ANYTHING OR ANYONE BUT GOD TO BE GLORIFIED!) You have made it a "Robbers' Den". Who had they robbed? What have they robbed? (Read **Jeremiah 7:1-15**) They robbed God! Yet they were so blind they could not see it. They smeared justice; they oppressed the downtrodden. They stole, murdered, and shed innocent blood, and even worshipped self-made gods. Then they would come to worship the LORD in the temple. **ROBBERS! THIEVES!**

Jesus was teaching daily in the temple, but the chief priests, the scribes, and the leading men were seeking to destroy the innocent Son of God. However, they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said. [Luke 19:47-48] We know under the New Covenant that every saint faithful in Christ is a holy temple, as the Holy Spirit dwells within the heart. [1 Corinthians 6:19-20] Therefore, what are we using our body for every day? Are we lifting up others who are overlooked? Or do we use these bodies as vessels for making money while robbing others of dignity? Has money become our god? Has appearance become our god? Or shall we sacrifice ourselves on the altar to honor Jesus with our whole life? Would we have listened to Jesus teach in the temple, even at the loss of income? {Hard question to answer?} Do we rob King Jesus and cast Him from the throne of our heart to deny His reign? As His temple, do we humbly allow Him to cleanse us? When He reigns within, He will not allow even merchandise

to be paraded through the heart. He provides. We use fairness as managers; Honesty as workers; Diligence with punctuality. Why? Because Jesus reigns within us! And He provides the peace through saving faith. His Victory will be Ours, or we'll seek to destroy the innocent One! And either dwell within or be cast out of His True Tabernacle in heaven. Do we hang on every word of the ultimate King of Peace? Eternity hangs in the balance of our daily decisions.

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