To Seek and To Save #3 “with Authority” Luke 19: 44-48

**Intro**: Mary and Joseph had travelled an entire day before they missed Jesus… assumed the 12 year old was with cousins.

* Frantic return to Jerusalem and search… Temple. He was calm, listening, questioning, answering with insight!
* Didn’t you know that I had to be in My Father’s House?

Unique relationship to God; and to Temple!

**t/s** – Jesus visit to Temple in Luke; only one more, today.

 Passover Again, 21 years later, He moves into His Father’s House and takes Over.

* Turns over tables and seats; clears out money changers; stops the traffic of commerce; and sits to Teach
* Makes the Ruler’s of the Temple like Guests/Outsiders.

**Read Luke 19: 45-48**

This story is important because it explains the hatred the religious leaders held for Jesus. He exposed them, confronted & condemned

 ***Judgment*** (41-44) – Tried and Found Wanting; Unresponsive.

 ***Authority*** (20:1-2) – By What Authority do you do this?

**Jesus Declares His Authority to Judge Us.**

**t/s** – The very poignant practical impact of this story. There is a kind of Worship; Form of Religion that offends the LORD. Unacceptable!

**ILL** – Amos at Bethel, Come to Bethel and sin! Please stop, You are making me sick! Noise, noise, noise… wearing Me out!

Would You Allow Jesus to Judge your Worship? (Thumbs Up/Down)

**The Kind of Religion Jesus Rejects** (Will you submit to His Authority?)

**Coming to Church without Connecting to God**.

**Exp** – *My House shall be called a house of prayer* (Is. 56)

 Jesus saw a bustling, busy Temple… activity, big crowds…

 But little in the way of actual Connection with God.

 Worship is not Talking ***about*** God; Talking **TO** God.

**GOSPEL** – Do You Know the LORD? (Veil in Temple Torn)

**ILL** – I visited a someone in hospital not long ago… Her Husband,

 Children, Nurse came to interrupt… missed Point!

 We said very little **to** the person in the bed.

**App** - We come to meet the Lord. Worship as Prayer:

1. ***We speak to God –*** Praise, Thanks, Confess & Help
2. ***He speaks to Us –*** Word, Spirit and Brethren
3. ***We Listen to Him*** (Submit)… Not these leaders!

**Coming to Church without Concern for Other People**.

**Exp** – “*My House shall be called a house of prayer* ***For All Nations***”

 Here we come to the issue that really provokes Jesus.

 **Court of the Gentiles**… Place of Worship for nations.

 Leaders totally disregarded them… set up shop in their place!

**Psalm 96: 1-4**

True Worship moves us to go get some Help. We need as many and as varied Voices as possible to sing His praise!

**ILL** – Like recruiting Choir Members… We Need Help to Do this Right!

**App** – True Worship Inspires Evangelism and Missions.

 Not ME --- My Preferences and Patterns… Them!!!

**t/s** – Is this about HIM or me; Is this about THEM or me…

**Coming to Church while Condoning your Sin.**

**Exp** – *You have made it a robbers den*. (under-understood)

 A rebuke of the greed and graft involved in the Temple Trade

 But More… A reference to Jeremiah’s Judgment Sermon.

 (Luke 19: 41-44… total destruction)

 **Jeremiah stood in this very spot in the Temple…**

* Judgment and destruction of the Temple (Solomon)
* People living ungodly lives --- injustice to poor, oppression of immigrants, materialism, dishonesty, adultery…. ***And just kept coming to Worship***
* Is showing up and singing songs, giving offerings like a get out of jail free card?!
* I destroyed Shiloh… I will Destroy this Temple Too!

**ILL** – Robber’s Cave State Park (Latimer Co.) – Hide Out for Criminals

 Jesse James, Belle Starr, Dalton Gang… Flee to Safety!

**App** – You go about your business all year neglecting people, chasing money, disregarding My claim on your lives; then run to the Temple like it is your hide out!

You do not have to be Pure in order to Truly Worship; ***BUT, True Worship Will Purify you!*** If you can continue a lifestyle of sin while practicing your religion, your religion is corrupt and empty. The Kind condemned by Jeremiah and **Jesus**.

**Summarize**: Connecting, Compassion, Purifying your Life.?!

***Will you Let Jesus be Your Judge?*** Will you Give Him Authority today to Confront you and empty religion, to Correct you? (***made Angry***)