

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 71:14-19 & John 2:13-22. What strikes you as you read?
2. Why would selling animals in the temple courts at the Passover feast be mutually beneficial to travellers & to the Jewish leaders? Why would Jesus be so angry about what seems helpful?
3. What was the temple designed for in the life of the people of God? How was it being misused in this instance? (*Read Isaiah 56:1-7 to find clues.*)
4. What is the significance of Jesus' referring to his body as the "temple"? Why is it only later, "after Jesus was raised from the dead," that the disciples caught Jesus' meaning here? In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul describes us (followers of Jesus) as "*temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you...*" How does Jesus' understanding of himself as the "temple" help you see how Paul now describes you?
5. The Psalms speak to God as if he is immediately present & near. How near & present does God feel to you today? Describe a difficult situation you're currently addressing? What makes it so challenging? How is God's closeness a help in that?
6. How has your relationship with God evolved over the years? The psalmist saw his relationship with God enduring even in old age. As you imagine the future, how do you see your life in relationship to the Father being lived out most fruitfully?
7. The psalmist saw himself as a testimony to the next generation. How might you build relationships with people of younger generations for the sake of witness to God's great love for all people?
8. The Psalmist proclaims continual hope, even though he is "not skilled with words." How often do we use that "not skilled with words" as an excuse for not sharing the hope we have in Jesus? How does this Psalm challenge you in that regard?
9. What do you fear most about growing older? How does this Psalm speak to that fear? How does this Psalm increase your hope?
10. What would you like the next generation to know...about God, about life, etc.? How are you going to communicate that? What part of your life in Christ helps communicate that most effectively?

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Lent – 17th March 2024

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONGS: *Awaken the Dawn*
He Knows my Name

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Psalm 71:14-19

¹⁴ As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

¹⁵ I will tell everyone about your righteousness.

All day long I will proclaim your saving power, though I am not skilled with words.

¹⁶ I will praise your mighty deeds, O Sovereign Lord.

I will tell everyone that you alone are just.

¹⁷ O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood,
and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do.

¹⁸ Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God.

Let me proclaim your power to this new generation,
your mighty miracles to all who come after me.

¹⁹ Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens.

You have done such wonderful things. Who can compare with you, O God?

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: John 2:13-22

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, & doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes & chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep & cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, & turned over their tables. ¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" ¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." ¹⁹ "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, & in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, & you can rebuild it in three days?" ²¹ But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, & they believed both the Scriptures & what Jesus had said.

FAITH CHAT:

1. How does this event where Jesus is violently angry feel to you?
What do you think angers Jesus still today?
2. What "table," or comfortable religious habit, does Jesus need to overturn in your life?

THE MESSAGE: *DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH A "W": WITNESS*

OFFERING SONG: *This is How We Know*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation: Let us pray together...

We bring our burdens & sin to You, O Christ. You bear the load for us.

We place upon You our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger & our desire.

We know You can remove our sin & restore us to life.

We confess that we have gone astray.

We confess that we have not loved You fully nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We confess that we have not fully loved even ourselves.

Forgive us & turn us back to You. Restore what has been broken.

Transform what has been twisted, & find what has been lost, so we may be the living, loving image of You in our world.

In Your Name we pray. Amen.

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion: VIDEO – TO THE TABLE (Zach Williams)

Post-Communion Blessing:

Response:

Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling,

God came to dwell with us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Christ came to be with us, among us, & for us.

Receive again the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We are restored to the Father! †

We will always have hope! We will praise God more and more!

We will tell everyone about the righteousness Christ gives!

Thanks be to God!

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God...

Christ in you empowers your witness to him!

-- Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Jesus Strong & Kind*

SHOW HIS LOVE

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