



The Tables Have Turned | Ryan Wekenman | 3.22-23

Weekly Study

SHARE

Happy Sunday, Red Rocks! Get ready for week 2 of our "Holy Week" series. This week, we dive into the controversial scene of Jesus entering the temple courts, overturning the tables and driving out those who were using it as a marketplace.

This story, on the surface, seems drastically uncharacteristic of Jesus. However, when we take a deeper look at the context and the grand scheme of things, we see that it actually displays deep reverence for God and His holiness. In the midst of the simplicity of the Gospel, we often create complications that make salvation seem impossible. In this message, we see how Jesus overturned the tables of religion, transforming the way things had been complicated in order to have a relationship with Him.

- Reflecting on last week's message, what area of your life, in the past week, have you surrendered to Jesus as King of?
- How has this week's message brought you back to the simplicity of the Good News?

GROW

Read Mark 11:15-17

In these verses, we witness Jesus not only making a scene but also making a statement with both action and words. The temple was known as the center of all religious activities, along with buying and selling. When Jesus says in verse 17, *"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. But you have made it a den of robbers,"* we see the difficulty that was created in our ability to approach God because of what the people turned the temple into. Worship and forgiveness became complicated for those who sought God, all due to a system that said, "We must do this and not do that."

- In what ways in your own life do you find yourself creating barriers between you and God?

- How have you made worship and forgiveness complicated in your life and relationship with God?**

The sacrificial system was beautiful to God but complicated for man, as it involved different offerings and sacrifices for each individual sin. Many of us cause unnecessary stress when we attempt to get to God by our own efforts, only to fail in the end, creating more distance between us and Him. We often ask ourselves what we must do to have a relationship with the Father, when the truth is, Jesus paid and did everything for us when He took on the cross and walked out of His grave. That is what Holy Week is all about! The Israelites often made it about themselves and their achievements, due to their flawed view of God's perfect system. We must break down the barriers of religion by setting our eyes on the one to whom the signposts point, and by doing this, what used to be complicated becomes simplistic.

- How do we, like the Israelites, make it all about us and our works rather than making it about Jesus and what his work completed for us?**

MOVE

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19

Jesus has made a way for you and me to not only talk about change but to truly experience transformation. As living temples of His Spirit, who freely dwells in us, we are able to be built up and made new, with Him as the sole occupier of our earthly vessels. Transformed by His power, we become spiritual homes that make it easier for others to come to God by grace through faith. In reality, for some reason, we're only trying to be made into cottages when Jesus' mission is to transform us into palaces!

- With the tables representing the ways we have made it difficult for ourselves or others to experience God, getting in the way of our own transformation. Why is it important to allow the tables to be turned in our lives and hearts as we submit to God?**
- How should we receive the maintenance of Jesus, if he is turning us into a spiritual palace?**

Although transformation used to be complicated due to the hindrance of the law, by the Holy Spirit, we now have the right of passage to be built into maturity. This maturity will be everlasting and bear fruit that not only strengthens and grows our relationship with the Lord but also encourages those who want to get to God and struggle with the complications we once struggled with.

We must continue, or begin, to allow God to tear down the things in our lives that need to be removed, whether it's wrong attitudes, unhealthy imaginations, or our lack of commitment. As Carpenter, Master, King, and ultimately Renovator, it is His responsibility to bring about

transformation in us. At the same time, it is our responsibility to allow Him to turn over the tables of religion in our lives, so that we might become the palace He is building. By surrendering to His work, we make room for the transformative power of His grace to shape us into what He has always intended.

- What do I need to allow Jesus to completely remove from my life?**
- Do you truly want to be transformed into a healthy spiritual house? What will this look like for you specifically?**

P R A Y

Take a moment to discuss what it means to have Jesus drive out and turn tables over in your heart. Reflect on those things that need to be pruned from your life. Ask God to give you the wisdom to recognize when He is rearranging your life to make room for His plans. Are you trying to pick the decorations of the remodel? Do you need to allow the Master Carpenter to tear down the mold in the walls?

Share any and all prayer requests with the group, taking time to pray for each request together in the Spirit.