

Breaking Down Barriers
: Study Notes

Sermon Notes:

Passage: Mark 11:15-18

Historically Religion has been about people jumping over barriers to reach or please God. Jesus was the original barrier remover.

1. God's gigantic heart for the world

-God's intent from the beginning is that Israel would be a light for the nations. They would be a people and place where everyone no matter race or ethnicity could find God. He started with a nation, but his intent was it would be all nations.

Passage: Isaiah 56:7

The place where foreigners could come and worship was pushed out by a marketplace
-They missed God's heart for others and thought it was all about them

Passage: Matthew 24:14

2. God cares about honest business and financial dealings.

Passage: Jeremiah 7:9-11 (NLT)

It had become a den of thieves not because they were selling animals for sacrifice. This was a necessary thing.

but they were getting ripped off. The religious establishment was taking advantage of people. especially the poor.

The temple area was filled with profiteers who worked in cooperation with the priests and robbed the pilgrims by forcing them to purchase approved sacrificial animals and currencies at inflated prices.

3. God came to remove the barriers between Him and you

This story is sandwiched in between the story of the fig tree. Jesus finds a tree that has leaves and no fruit. With fig trees, fruit always accompanies leaves. Jesus pronounces judgement against the tree. An object lesson hinting at the temple and it's religious system. Jesus came not just to clean up the temple. He came to pronounce judgment against it. An end to the system.

-there is no temple any longer, no place you need to go to meet with God.

Jesus is the temple and if you have chosen to be a follower of His and invited Him into your life you have become that temple.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 6:19

Breaking Down Barriers
: Study Notes

Life Group Discussion

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

Warm Up:

1. What's something in your house you want to get rid of but can't? (Please no naming your spouse or children!)
2. What trip or experience have you had that had a big spiritual impact on you and why?

Study & Discussion:

Read together: Mark 11:15-18

1. What are some things that stick out to you about this Passage? In your opinion what was Jesus trying to accomplish?
2. Does this break any stereotypes of what Jesus was like? If so how does it change our view of God and our interactions with Him?

Read together: Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:9-11

1. These are the passages that Jesus is quoting during this incident in the temple. How are these two passages connected?
2. How is this applicable to our lives and how we see the world?

Prayer: (this can be done before or after the study)

1. Is there someone or something outside the group you would like prayer for today?
2. What would you like to receive prayer for today?