



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 45

Lesson Title: King of Righteousness

Take Home Point: Jesus is the King of right and wrong.

Warm-Up:

A father was being pressured by his children to let them watch a popular movie containing “just a bit” of profanity and sexual misconduct. That evening the father asked if they wanted some brownies. He explained that he'd added something to the recipe, “just a bit” of dog poop. But all the other ingredients were gourmet quality and he had taken great care making the brownies. He was sure they were superb. Even with their father's promise that the brownies were of almost perfect quality, the teens refused. The father acted surprised. It was only one small part that was causing them to be so stubborn. He was certain they wouldn't notice it.

Read: Matthew 21:12-13

Observation (What happened?):

What did Jesus tell the moneychangers when he threw them out?

What did Jesus do immediately after cleaning up the temple?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Jesus quoted from the Old Testament (Jeremiah 7:11 and Psalm 8:2) in response to both the moneychangers and the priests and scribes. Why do you think he did so?

The Old Testament temple no longer exists. Where is God's temple today? (Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19, and 2 Corinthians 6:16.)

Insight:

What is a temple? What is a temple for? What does it mean to be God's temple? Essentially, a temple is a house for a god. Typically, it is a place for worship rituals and offerings to attempt to win a god's favor. For us, however, no attempt is necessary or possible. God's favor has already been won by the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. God promises to reside in the heart of anyone who accepts that sacrifice, so we become his temple. We should desire to make our lives a fitting place for our Redeemer and Lord. That means letting him clean out those old sinful spaces, making choices to resist sin and temptation, and filling your life and mind with sights, sounds, thoughts, and conversation that honor God and build up yourself and those around you.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know what areas in your life need to be cleaned up? Ask Jesus to do the cleaning and help you make good decisions to help your heart get and stay clean.

One of the most powerful weapons we have against temptation is Scripture. If you are not already memorizing Bible verses, find a system and start using it. (There are books and card methods available to help you, or you can develop your own.)