

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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WHAT ANGERS AND SADDENS GOD

John 12

What makes you mad or gets you really upset? Everybody has a boiling point. Everybody has something that really gets under their skin. Maybe it's certain drivers, or people with certain habits. Maybe it's when you're hungry. Whatever it is, those things just make us angry. Jesus, on more than one occasion, also displayed anger. In John 12, we see what makes God angry and what makes Him sad. In this story of Palm Sunday our Lord rides into Jerusalem on the back of the donkey, but in spite of the singing, dancing, and laying down of palm branches, we see Him display very real human emotion—He shows both anger and deep sadness.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **What saddens God?** Being God, Jesus knew the hearts of the people lining the streets to greet Him. He knew that only a week later, most of them would be calling for Him to be crucified. He knew that He would be betrayed. He knew that God would momentarily turn His face away as He poured our sin upon Jesus who was dying in our place. He also knew the future, that the city He looked upon would be destroyed in AD 70. These things broke Jesus' heart because unbelief and rejection break the heart of God.
2. **What angers God?** Jesus' anger was directed in two areas. One, the moneychangers were ripping off those faithful Jews who sought to make their sacrifices to God. Two, the moneychangers were keeping people away. God is angry when we do anything that keeps people away from Him.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- One way we keep people away from God is through hypocrisy. Nothing is more counterproductive to evangelism than a hypocritical Christian. Are you a bridge or a barrier to people coming to Christ?
- Not inviting or welcoming others to church is essentially the same as keeping them away. Church should be a place where nonbelievers are welcome to come and draw nearer to God.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

It is interesting that this was the second time Jesus cleansed the temple. The first time He used a whip that He made. It was not a temper tantrum when He drove all the moneychangers out the first time. Now a little time has elapsed and the temple is clean. Then one guy comes in and sets up his table. Then the second guy shows up. Now the third guy shows up. Now there are a bunch of tables with more of their crummy rip-off sacrifices again. It happened a little bit at a time and Jesus says, "Time to do a little spring cleaning here." That is true of our lives as well, and that is why we constantly come and say, "Lord, cleanse me today. Forgive me of my sin, known and unknown."