

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



Taking on the Temple
Luke 19:45-48

Danny Hall, 3/11/12

The challenge of tradition

The challenge to tradition

If you would like to become a part of a small group please contact
Tony Catudal at 925-846-6622x17 or tcatudal@vcclive.org.



Taking on the Temple
Luke 19:45-48
Message-based Small Group Lesson

Overview

We all have traditions of some kind or another. There is a lot of value in learning and passing along our traditions. But can tradition get in the way? In this story, Jesus is one week away from the cross and is experiencing intense opposition from those who have a vested interest in protecting the past. This is a direct challenge to his mission, and even his very life, as he continues to redefine their understanding about everything right before their very eyes.

Engaging with each other

1. What are some traditions that are important in your family?
2. When you go out in public to shop, what are some of the things that you see or experience that you find annoying?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Luke 19:45-48
2. What are your initial reactions to this story?
3. This story occurs shortly after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. What do you think the connection is between these two events?

4. This story is often interpreted to mean that Jesus is upset with the exploitation of people's temple needs for financial gain. While that's true, there was more going on here. The Temple was also the center of Jewish tradition and resistance to Rome. In light of the context of the story what else might Jesus' actions point to?
5. Read Mark 11:15-19. In Mark's telling of the same story he includes details that Luke does not. For example, Mark 11:17 quotes Jesus as saying that the temple was to be "a house of prayer for all the nations," (Isaiah 56:6-7). How does this help us understand Jesus' challenge to what was happening in the temple?
6. Jesus' actions would have shut down all temple activity including sacrifices for a while. What do you think this might be foreshadowing?
7. Why do you think the people "hung on his words" (Luke 11:48) as Jesus was teaching them?

Engaging with our lives

1. The Jews at this time were more concerned with regaining their independence and maintaining their cultural identity through their traditions than they were in the mission of God. What are some examples of how we can be more focused on preserving our traditions than in engaging in God's mission?
2. When you think about our church, what are the most important things to you?
3. If you were to think of your own heart as a temple, what tables would you say Jesus has turned over in your life? What is he currently trying to drive out?