

Sermon Document
December 19th 2021
The Heart of the War
Mark 11:15-19,27-32

"The heart of the war is a war for the heart"

Mark 11:15-19 ESV

And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city.

Malachi 3:1-4 ESV

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Jeremiah 2:22

“ ‘Although you wash yourself with soda and use an abundance of soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me,’ declares the Sovereign Lord’

Hymn

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Quote:

The process of purify was complete and the dross all burnt away when suddenly the silver became a liquid mirror in which the refiner could see his own reflection.

Titus 2:14

"for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good"

Revelation 6:16

calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

Mark 11:27-32 ESV

And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these

things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘From man?’” — they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet.

Luke 16:31

“If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.”

Sermon Discussion questions:

- What is something the Lord spoke to you about during the gathering today?
- How does Jesus going into the temple and flipping the tables remind us about his rescue mission? Are there any “tables” in our own lives the lord may want to flip?
- How has Jesus’ cleansing power made you look more like Him?
- What gave Christ the courage and boldness to confront the religious leaders in the temple? How can we have the same courage and boldness to confront the enemies of God today?*
- How does the fear of man affect someone who is considering repenting and following Christ? What can cruel people do to that person? Is there anything worse than that?*
- During this Christmas season how can you participate in Jesus rescue mission?
- Who are some in your own life Jesus may be calling you to share the gospel with this season?
- How can your grow group help you in what the Lord is calling you to do?

* questions adapted from: Daniel L. Akin, [*Exalting Jesus in Mark*](#), ed. Daniel L. Akin, David Platt, and Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2014), Mk 11:27–33.