The King Comes to Cleanse

God is holy. He cannot look with favor on spiritual uncleanness, nor will He have fellowship with it. Whenever and wherever Jesus comes, He comes to cleanse. Sometimes that cleansing means judgment. Sometimes it means salvation.

**1. Jesus’ historical cleansing of the temple**

A. Defilement *creeps in quickly*

[John 2:13-25]

B. Defilement *hinders worship*

C. Defilement *hides God from the nations*

**2. The OT pattern of cleansing the temple**

A. *Hezekiah* [2 Chronicles 29]

B. *Josiah* [2 Chronicles 34]

C. *Nehemiah* [chapter 13]

D. *Malachi* (1:11-12; 3:1-4)

**3. A personal application of cleansing the temple**

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

A. Jesus has *cleansed us*

B. We become *defiled*

C. We must cleanse ourselves *by obeying*

D. Jesus cleanses us *afresh*

(by His blood, His word, and His Spirit)

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Cleansing

By blood – 1 John 1:5-9

By the word – John 17:17, 19; Ephesians 5:25-27

By the Spirit – Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-23

3. “A house of prayer for all nations” (Mark 11:17) is based on Isaiah 56:3-8. In that passage foreigners and eunuchs who were excluded from temple worship under the Old Covenant, are welcomed under the New Covenant. (For eunuchs, see Deuteronomy 23:1.)