



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



ALL SAINTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA | AUSTIN

LENT - WEEK 3 “THE CLEANSING”

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PRAYERS	DISCUSSION
<p><u>CONNECTION:</u></p> <p>Men’s Prayer Gathering Thursday March 12th a group of men will gather at the All Saints building site (6201 Terravista Dr.) to pray for the building construction and the ministry which will flow from it. Contact Marc marcknight11@gmail.com.</p> <p>Joint Young Adult Retreat March 14-15th with PCA churches from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Glenn Hoburg of Grace PCA in Washington DC will be our speaker. Cost is \$95. Sign up www.allsaintsaustin.org/young-adults-ministry.</p> <p>Church Plant Q&A Sunday March 22nd immediately after the evening service at Park Hills. Childcare provided.</p> <p>Good Friday Service Friday April 3rd at 6 PM at St. Gabriel’s (2500 Wimberley Ln.). Childcare provided for ages 3 and under.</p> <p><u>REQUESTS:</u></p> <p>That God Would Clean House in our Lives How is God convicting you this week? How can we be praying for you in your battles against sin? What temples does Jesus need to clean and close in your life?</p>	<p>INTRO <i>(Question:)</i> When people pray for/long to experience God’s presence, what do you think they mean? What do you mean when you ask for such things? <i>(Transition:)</i> This is a good and holy longing because God is the greatest being and communion with him is what we were created for. But I think we often misunderstand what it means for him to show up. At times it appears that we mean nothing more than God giving us our worldly desires—like a cosmic vending machine—or expecting some ecstatic but vague sense of intimacy.</p> <p>We are continuing in the season of Lent, which is a time focused on repentance—on the desire to be changed and the practices which help us turn from sin and toward God. To that end our series is titled, “How God Deals with Sin,” with the hope that his pattern would shape our lives. As we read our text be thinking about this question: “What does it look like when God shows up?”</p> <p>READ the text from John aloud.</p> <p>DISCUSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your understanding of the significance of temples in the ancient world? How did they function? What did they symbolize? <i>(They were the ritual centers of communal life. They were the symbolic spaces in which heaven and earth met. In these people expected to encounter the transcendent. They would gather in this sacred space, be guided by priests, and offer sacrifices with the expectation of blessing from the divine.)</i> • Does our secular/modern culture have temples today? What are they? Which of these has the strongest pull on your heart? <i>(Some examples: cinema, sports arenas, skyscrapers, and shopping centers.)</i> • What do you know about the Temple in the life and history of Israel? Let’s look at the passage which describes what happened when the Temple was first completed. (READ the text from 2 Chronicles aloud.) Why was the Temple constructed? What happened when God showed up? • So now going back to the passage in John, what can we assume made Jesus so upset? • Why did Jesus not give them a sign when they asked for one? Why do Christians not have a Temple like Israel did? Why was that Temple temporary? • What is the Temple for Christians? <i>(Jesus—this passage in John; Col. 2:9—and the Church/Christians—1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph 2:19-21.)</i> • How is God present in our lives today? How might this change the way you think about sin? Or just the mundane activities of your life? How can we become numb to God’s presence? • What does it mean for God to show up in an acute way in our lives today? What will those encounters look like? How should we respond? <p>CONCLUDE God longs to dwell with man. That was the point of creation. But God cannot dwell with sin (see Psalm 5:4). So to dwell with us he had to deal with sin in our lives. He dealt with the penalty of sin (i.e., guilt and wrath) once for all in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. But he is also continuing to deal with the presence (i.e., corrupting influence) of sin in our lives now. This will get messy, and at times be quite painful. But it is good, as a means unto the goal of experiencing God’s presence. Our proper response in the normal rhythms of being in the presence of God, as well as in times of acute encounter, should always be humility, gratitude, and the presentation of our lives as a sacrifice.</p>

JOHN 2:13-22

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

[13] The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. [14] In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. [15] And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. [16] And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." [17] His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

[18] So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" [19] Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." [20] The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" [21] But he was speaking about the temple of his body. [22] When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

2 CHRONICLES 6:1-6, 40-42; 7:1-4

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

[6:1] Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. [2] But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” [3] Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. [4] And he said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, [5] ‘Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel; [6] but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’...

[40] Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.

[41] “And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation,
and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.

[42] O LORD God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one!
Remember your steadfast love for David your servant.”

[7:1] As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. [2] And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. [3] When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” [4] Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD.