

Harmony of the Gospels

Part 13

“A Passion for You”

Christian Author and Teacher Marlene LeFever was once asked what was required to be an effective Bible teacher: She replied, “Well you just prepare and prepare until great drops of blood appear on your forehead...”

Luke 22:44

And being in agony, Jesus prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Do you know what Jesus passion was? YOU!

- ☞ **Everything that He has done**, from the creation of the Universe, to the moment when He humbled Himself and was born as a baby in Bethlehem, till He allowed them to beat Him beyond recognition as a human being, and finally pierced through and Crucified, Even His resurrection from the Dead and His soon return, **ALL OF IT WAS FOR YOU.**
- ☞ **When Jesus was hanging** on the Cross, it was you that he was thinking of, it was your beautiful face that He saw there before Him.
- ☞ **You were the reason** that Jesus lived and died, you were His passion, His zeal...

In just a few moments, we are going to read here in John chapter 2:

John 2

17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

Jesus had a passion for those things that pleased the Father, It ate him up, it is what moved Him, what compelled Him, what drove Him...**what is it that moves you?**

When Paul had been falsely accused and arrested and imprisoned, on his way to be jailed in Jerusalem, Listen to what he wrote:

Acts 20:22-24

20 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, **not knowing the things that will happen to me there,**

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **chains and tribulations await me.**

24 **But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

“I don’t know what awaits me in Jerusalem, except chains and tribulations, but none of these things move me, not do I count my life dear to myself, but I just want to finish my race with JOY...”

If you live to be 90 years old, you will have had 47 Million 304 Thousand Minutes to choose what your passion in life will be.

- ☞ **In less than a single minute** you can hear that Jesus is the Eternal God who created everything that exists, that He loves you and that He came to earth to die for you.
- ☞ **That if you will ask Jesus to come into your heart** and forgive all of your sins, He will, and **in less than a minutes time, you can know for certain that when you die, you will go to heaven.**

In less than one minute out of 47 million that you may live, You can settle the whole issue of where you will spend eternity.

But even If you are just:

- ☞ **20:** You have had 10,512,000 Minutes so far
- ☞ **30:** 15,768,000 Minutes
- ☞ **40:** 21,024,000 Minutes
- ☞ **50:** 26,280,000 Minutes
- ☞ **60:** 31, 536,000 Minutes
- ☞ **70:** 36,792,000 Minutes

What have you done with your millions of minutes so far? What has been your passion and the thing that moves you?

- ☞ **The good news is that for most of you**, there are still **millions of minutes left** for you to make Jesus your passion and live for Him “*Full-Tilt-Boogie*”.

Everything you have been through in your life so far, has been to prepare you for this moment when you would hear how the King of the Universe made his passion and His Zeal you, and that you could choose to make Him your passion and your Zeal.

Abraham Lincoln said”

“If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I’d spend six hours sharpening my axe.”

All of you life so far, is like those six hours of sharpening, you have just 2 hours left to be used...what are you going to do with it?

Are you passionate enough for the Lord? If not, then why not?

- ⊞ **“Well I have tried**, I am trying to be more passionate, but I just can’t seem to change.
- ⊞ **Change is difficult**, to go from one who is semi passionate about knowing and following Jesus, to someone who is consumed with following Jesus.
- ⊞ **How much do you want to change** and be a person of passion for Jesus?
- ⊞ **Because you have to really “Want to change”** before you are going to change.

Change is difficult...

Do you know how many Psychiatrists it takes to change a light bulb?

Just one, but that light bulb has got to really WANT to change”

Today, as we continue to follow Jesus through the 4 gospels, we have seen Him turn water into wine, and remind us not to get too hung up on this world, because it is not ever going to be as good as what Jesus has saved for the last for you...

This morning, Jesus will now journey to Capernaum, then to Jerusalem, where He will do something that is shocking:

[John 2](#)

12 After this Jesus went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

- ⊞ **Capernaum**: is the home base of Jesus during his ministry, He will return here several times.
- ⊞ **He called Matthew** to follow him here at Capernaum.
- ⊞ **It was the home** of several other disciples of Jesus.
- ⊞ **Even though Jesus** came back to Capernaum many times, the people of Capernaum did not believe in him, later he condemns them for their hard hearts of unbelief.

Next in verse 13-22 we see that Jesus cleanses the temple for the first time:

- ⊞ **The temple that Jesus is about to enter** is the 2nd temple rebuilt after the remnant of the Jews who had been taken captive to Babylon, returned under Ezra and Nehemiah to Israel.
- ⊞ **The first temple** was built by Solomon almost 1,000 years earlier in 949 b.c., it was destroyed by the Babylonians.
- ⊞ **It was rebuilt** in 515 b.c. And remodeled recently by Herod the great.
- ⊞ **The Temple** was considered to be the dwelling place of The Living God of the Universe.
- ⊞ **Jesus had been here many times**, but this time was different, He was beginning his ministry.
- ⊞ **The glory of God**, His “*Shekinah Glory*”, His very presence that had filled the temple since the days of the Exodus was no longer there.



- ☞ **Very Soon** the veil in the temple would be torn in two, and gods glory would be revealed in plain view for every person to see in Jesus.

John 2:13-22

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

- ☞ **The Passover** was celebrated every year in Jerusalem in remembrance of the night when The Lord delivered Israel from the slavery they were under in Egypt.
- ☞ **This morning** we will be observing the modern day equivalent to Passover, remembering Jesus sacrifice for us in communion.
- ☞ **Every male** was expected to make this journey to Jerusalem for the week long celebration.
- ☞ **Passover was on the first day** of the Celebration, then the feast of unleavened bread lasted the rest of the week

John 2

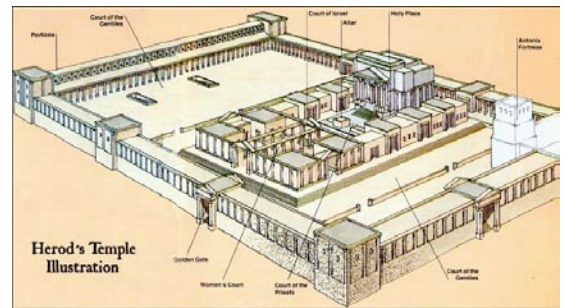
14 And Jesus found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.

15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

There was a place that had been set aside in the Temple area for those who were not Jews, to be able to come and worship the Lord.

- ☞ **It was called** “The Court of the Gentiles”, and it was right next to the Temple itself.
- ☞ **One of the things** that I love about Jesus, is that He loves all people, all races, not matter who you are, what you have done in your life, or what people have done to you, Jesus still loves you.
- ☞ **The Lord never excludes anyone** from knowing Him, He provides access to Himself to anyone who will come.
- ☞ **Here in this Temple constructed** for the Jews to come and worship their God, there is a special place set aside where even a pagan, a none Jew, anyone can come and worship the living God.



The Gentiles were only permitted in the “Court of the Gentiles”, there was a sign attached to the wall in the Court of the Gentiles...

Josephus the Jewish historian wrote about the warning signs that were on the barrier that separated the court of the gentiles



from the other courts in the Temple. Its seven line inscription reads as follows:
NO FOREIGNER

*IS TO GO BEYOND THE BALUSTRADE
AND THE PLAZA OF THE TEMPLE ZONE
WHOEVER IS CAUGHT DOING SO
WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME
FOR HIS DEATH
WHICH WILL FOLLOW*

In order to be able to come and worship the Lord at the Temple, all people were required to bring an animal for a sacrifice for their sins.

- ☞ **The Lord provided** that a guilty person could have their sins “*Khofar*” or “**covered**” by the death of an innocent animal, for their sin.
- ☞ **Only animals that were** “*Without blemish*”, that is, without physical defect, could be offered to the Lord as a sacrifice.

Exodus 12:5

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.

- ☞ **It was a picture** for the future when Jesus would come and be the ONE sacrifice forever.
- ☞ **Jesus had to be perfect** and without sin Himself if He would be qualified to offer His life for our life.

1 Peter 1:18

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot

- ☞ **If Jesus had sinned even one time** in his 33 ½ years, He could not be our sacrifice, He had to be perfect.

So, the Gentiles who would come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord at the Temple, had to bring an animal that was “Without defect”.

- ☞ **As they would enter the Temple area**, they were met by one of the priests who would inspect their animal to see if it was “Without defect”.
- ☞ **Remember if even one hair** was the wrong color on the animal, it would be disqualified to be offered to the Lord as a sacrifice.
- ☞ **What had began to happen** in the Court of the Gentiles, was that the temple priests would always find some kind of a defect in the animals that the Gentiles brought.
- ☞ **So the priests would say to them** “*I am sorry but this animal is not acceptable as a sacrifice, but you can purchase one of our clean animals here at the temple that are guaranteed “Without defect”.*
- ☞ **Of course**, the temple animals were considerably more expensive than the animals that the Gentiles were able to obtain back at their homes.

A second catch here was that you could not use any foreign currency at the Temple, they actually had their own Temple currency.

The first coin to be officially accepted as payment for the annual Temple Tax in Jerusalem was “The Shekel of Tyre”.



- ⊕ **So, set up in the court of the Gentiles** were “*The Money Changers*”, men who would take your foreign currency and turn it into Temple currency, again at very high exchange rates.
- ⊕ **So, the people, the Gentiles** that just came to love and worship the Lord, had to jump through all of these hoops and spend a lot of money, just to be able to worship God.

So, picture the scene, the “**Court of the Gentiles**” next to the Temple, there are thousands of Gentile worshipers there, dozens of Money changer tables, priests inspecting sacrifices, and arguments going on over whether an animal is defective or not.

John 2

14 And Jesus found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.

15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

Here in verse 14 Jesus comes into the temple and sees all that is happening.

- ⊕ **A place that was set aside** for people to come and meet the Lord and worship Him, had become a place for doing business.
- ⊕ **Not just any business**, but making money off the very people who were there to worship the Lord.
- ⊕ **The people were being prevented** from worshipping the Lord, because of the greediness and corruption of men.

You know, the same thing is going on right now in Jesus church, every day.

- ⊕ **A few years ago** Oral Roberts announced on national television that if he did not raise several million dollars by a certain date, that God was going to kill Him.
- ⊕ **Men stand before their congregations every week** and put all kinds of guilt trips on the congregation to give.

If you have been here for awhile, you have noticed that we never take up an offering or pass a plate.

- ⊕ **This is because** I personally feel that your giving of your tithes and offerings should be as the scriptures says that it should.

2 Corinthians 9:7

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver

Your giving should not be because someone made you feel guilty or that you felt compelled to give.

- ⊕ **2 Corinthians 9:7** says that it should be as you have “*Purposed in your heart*”.
- ⊕ **This means** that your giving should be an extension of your love and worship of the Lord.
- ⊕ “*Oh Lord you are so good to me, you have loved me so much, all that I have Father is because You gave it to me, I want my finances to honor you Father, so I am giving back to you a portion of what you have given to me...*”

The phrase “**Cheerful giver**”, here in 2 Corinthians 9, really means “**A Hilarious giver...**”

- ⊕ **Hilarious is defined** as “*Causing great amusement*”.
- ⊕ **It means** to cause you great enjoyment.
- ⊕ **When I give to the Lord**, I love to do it, it brings me such great pleasure to give back to Him some small part of how greatly I have been blessed by Him.
- ⊕ **But If I am going to give and then complain** about it afterwards, I should just keep it.
- ⊕ **The Lord doesn't want** you to give Him your offering and then complain about it.

How would you like to receive a gift from someone and then have to endure hearing about how great a sacrifice it was for this person to give you this gift, PLEASE, take your gift back, I don't want it...Right?

David said that He would not give to the Lord anything that did not cost him something.

1 Chronicles 21:24

Then King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.

In other words, David said that unless his giving to the Lord cost him, unless it was expensive to Him, he wouldn't give it to the Lord.

- ⊕ **David didn't want** to give the Lord whatever was left over, He wanted to give the Lord the first part of what he had.
- ⊕ **In order** for it to be a true offering, it had to cost something.

Mark 12:41-44

41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.

42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;

44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.

This poor widow gave all the money that she had, but the rich that came gave what was left over after they had made sure they had all they needed.

As Jesus is watching the people come and drop their money into the offering box, He is looking at the reason why they are putting their money in.

- ☞ **He wants** you to give for the right reason.’
- ☞ **Because you Love** the Lord.
- ☞ **Because you want it** to be a part of your worship of Him.
- ☞ **Because you want to honor** Him with your finances.
- ☞ **So that The Lord can continue** to do the work of ministry through us In Winslow.
- ☞ **But if you don’t want to give** and are going to complain about it afterward, please just keep it.

I received a phone call one day from a Christian organization that wanted to teach us how to get more money out of all of you by fund raising campaigns.

- ☞ **I told her** that I wasn’t interested.
- ☞ **She asked me how** then we get the money that we need to run the church.
- ☞ **I told her** “this might sound strange to you but we just pray and ask the Lord to provide all that we need, and He does, in fact He has been doing just that for the 10 years I have been here.
- ☞ **Not one month did** we ever not have what we needed to take care of the needs of this church.
- ☞ **We just pray** and the Lord provides through the people that attend our fellowship.
- ☞ **We don’t beg** or try to make them feel guilty and yet our people are some of the most generous and loving people I have ever known, we always have what we need.

So, Jesus comes into the Court of the Gentiles and He sees the people being taken advantage of and He gets furious...

- ☞ **Again, Josephus**, the Jewish historian describes Jesus as a large and powerful man, a carpenter.
- ☞ **Here Jesus begins to drive out the money changers**, to cleanse his temple so that he is properly represented to the people.

John 2

17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

- ⊕ **This is a quote from psalm 69:9** David was foreseeing the this day when the messiah would come into his temple the 1st time and cleanse it.

Psalms 69:9

Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up

Is there ever a time when as a believer and follower of Jesus, I can become angry and show my anger?

- ⊕ **Yes.**
- ⊕ **Most of the time**, when we get angry, it is because we didn't get something that we want, or someone is saying or doing something to us that we don't like.
- ⊕ **Notice why Jesus is getting angry** here, it is because other people are being taken advantage of.
- ⊕ **Righteous anger** is when we see someone else being mistreated or abused or taken advantage of them and we see it and take action.
- ⊕ **This the only kind of anger** that is right, when it is directed at protection someone else.
- ⊕ **Most of our anger is directed at us**, when we get hurt or taken advantage of.

Jesus did not lose his temper, he was righteously angry because God was being misrepresented and men were preventing people from having a true experience with the Lord.

John 2

18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?"

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 Then the Jews 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 of the temple of His body.

22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

- ⊕ **Jesus answers the religious leaders** with a counter challenge to get them to think about what they were saying.

"Ok, Jesus is cleansing the temple, and the Scriptures said that when the Messiah came He would cleanse the temple, Hey I wonder if Jesus is the Messiah?"

- ⊕ **Their answer shows** that they did not really take the time to think about why Jesus was there.

When they ask Jesus for “**A sign**” to prove He as the authority to do what He has just done in the Temple, what did Jesus tell them?

- ☞ *“Destroy this Temple and I will raise it up in three days”.*
- ☞ **What proof do we really have** that Jesus is the Only way to Heaven?
- ☞ **What proof do we have** that Jesus is the only Savior of the world?
- ☞ *“Destroy this temple and I will raise it up in three days.”*

Has anyone in all of history ever raised themselves from the dead? NO, Jesus pointed to His resurrection as the proof that everything that He said was true and that He was the Only way to heaven.

- ☞ **Actually it was very common** for the people of this day to speak of death in terms of their body being destroyed.
- ☞ **In 2 Corinthians 5 :14** Paul speaks of his body as being a “*Tent*”.

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

- 1 For we know that if our earthly house, **this tent**, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,
- 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.
- 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

Peter also spoke of our body as being like a tent, a temporary dwelling place.

2 Peter 1:13-14

- 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,
- 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Your body is not designed to be a permanent dwelling place for your spirit, only to house you until Jesus comes to give you anew body like his.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 from the living bible:

- 51 But I am telling you this strange and wonderful secret: we shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies!
- 52 It will all happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For there will be a trumpet blast from the sky, and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too.
- 53 For our earthly bodies, the ones we have now that can die, must be transformed into heavenly bodies that cannot perish but will live forever.
- 54 When this happens, then at last this Scripture will come true-- "Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 O death, where then your victory? Where then your sting? For sin-- the sting that causes death-- will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge.

When Jesus came and died and then rose from the dead He forever defeated death's power over us.

- ☞ **Before Jesus died and rose again**, death was something to really be feared.
- ☞ **What happens to me** when my body dies?
- ☞ **Before Jesus died**, not one person had the hope of eternal life.
- ☞ **But today** because Jesus really did raise from the dead, we can celebrate together in communion, as we not only remember what Jesus accomplished for us in His death, but also when He was raised from the dead.

"Death is swallowed up in victory." O death, where then your victory? Where then your sting?"

Jesus' passion was You, the reason He lived and died, was all for you...

Now the question remains, will Jesus become your passion because He has done so much for you and has loved you so very much, will you live for Him?

[2 Corinthians 5:15](#)

and Jesus died for all of us, so that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again