



SDG Discussion Guide

"A House of Prayer for All Nations"

Romans 8:26 & 15:30

April 9, 2017

Openers:

What is the closest experience you have had with meeting a world leader or personality? Did your impression of him or her change after that encounter, and if yes how so? If you could change one thing about modern Christianity what would it be?

Group Interaction: *[The following content is meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the sermon text. Also, feel free to ask your own questions to facilitate your own discussion regarding the sermon or text.]*

1. What aspects of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem do you find most significant? Why?
2. The marketplace activity took place in the only area where Gentiles could worship. Why did this cause a strong reaction in Jesus? See Isa 56:6-8.
3. How do you feel about expressing anger? Have you ever expressed "righteous" anger? What happened -- did it help you reform a situation or create further complication, etc.?
4. What was Jesus stating when he called the temple a "den of robbers"? See Jer 7:9-15.
5. How did Jesus "ride" into your life? As a hero requiring your submission? As a gentle authority bearing peace? As a true rescuer? How about now -- has his role in your life evolved?
6. When is the last time you did not know how to pray and you believe the Holy Spirit helped and brought relief to you? What was your experience?
7. Like the temple, no church is perfect. In light of the gospel passage, how can we be encouraged to support our "house" in being a "better" place in terms of prayer with one another?
8. What is your understanding of striving or struggling in prayer? What is your experience?

Take some time to pray in your group. Perhaps let there be silence for a while. In the quiet of your mind, thank the Holy Spirit for interceding on your behalf in accordance with God's specific will for you and those close to you. Now perhaps aloud, ask God to help you encounter him anew as your Father. Adore him for his perfect love for his creation, including everyone in your group and you. Ask him to show you how "striving" in prayer, especially on behalf of one another, can re-inspire your relationship and joyful service to him. Ask him to put persons on your heart that you can ask how to pray for them, as well as persons that you can ask to pray for you.