

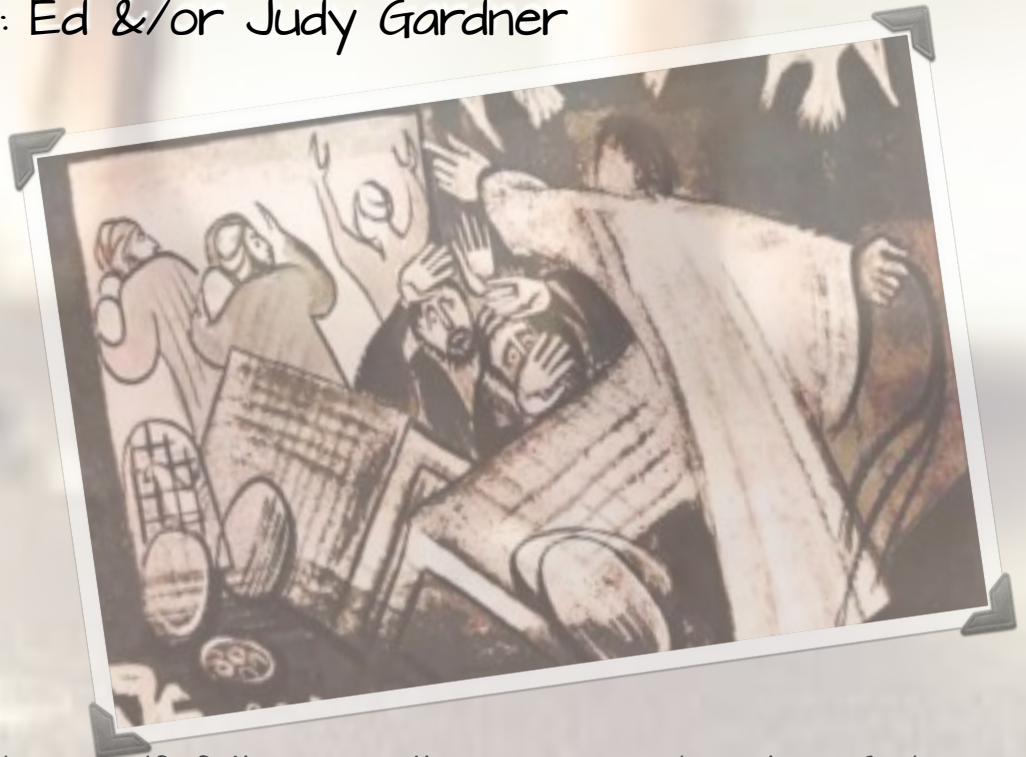
March 14-18, 2022 Edition

# Following The Year Of<sup>^</sup> Jesus Part II

Jesus Flips Some Tables: Lord Of The Temple

By: Ed &/or Judy Gardner

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When you read the Bible ask yourself if there's anything you're reading where God is speaking to you personally... anything that you need to start applying in your own life. Then try to reflect on what you read... what you heard from God throughout the day and we know you'll be blessed.

\*\*\* These are EXTREMELY rough drafts so if you see typos... well yuo knew the rest ;O) These are essentially the ramblings of thoughts running through Ed or Judy's mind the week before Ed teaches a lesson on these concepts. They are pretty much how Ed gets ready for the weekends. They are not necessarily coherent so if they don't make much sense... sorry about that.

\*\*\*\* Also these devotionals are the product of both Judy & Ed's experiences and education. Figuring out which are from Judy and which are from Ed (sometimes both are contained in a single day) is half the fun.

You can also get these devotionals on Riverside's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside](http://www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside)). You don't have to have a FB account to read them but if you do have an account if you "like" the Riverside page and click the box to get updates the devos will show up on your wall every weekday (along with other news and event updates).

**Monday Reflection:** This week we're looking at the time Jesus flipped some tables and drove the money changers and sacrificial animals out of the Temple. In John's gospel this story comes immediately after Jesus' first miracle turning water to wine in Cana of Galilee. A very similar story shows up in the other 3 gospels but rather than putting it at the beginning of the gospel (as John does) this story is found at the end of Jesus' life. The two stories have striking similarities but there are also differences. Scholars have been trying to figure out if these are two different stories (meaning Jesus cleansed the Temple twice during His 3 1/2 year ministry on this earth) or the same story told in different ways. My guess (and that's all this is- a guess) is that Jesus only cleansed the Temple once and that John puts it at the beginning of his gospel to make a point.

Now before you go off yelling "heretic!" let me point out that John never claims his gospel is a chronological history of Jesus' life like Luke asserts his gospel is:

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

Luke's purpose statement is to give an "orderly account" of the life of Jesus. John never makes that claim. This is John's purpose statement found at the very end of his gospel:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
John 20:30-31 (NIV)

John's gospel comes 30 years after the other 3 gospels had been written. All the other apostles were dead and John- who had been preaching and teaching about Jesus for 50 years takes his favorite sermons about Him and turns them into a book- the gospel of John. My guess is that John put the two sermons in chapter 2 (water to wine and flipping tables in the Temple) because they are a snapshot of what anyone who expresses faith in Jesus can expect in their own lives (more on that in a couple of days). Today and tomorrow we'll look in minute detail into the Temple and trace its origins and its destiny (in other words where did it come from where will it go...). So let's get started, shall we?

Over the next couple of days we will trace out what the Temple was, is, and what it will be (and they're not all the same answer). But for today maybe spend some time thinking about the differences between Luke's purpose for writing his gospel and John's purpose for writing his and how that might change the way they write and what stories each includes (and doesn't include) and how that might impact the way we see Jesus in each account.

**Tuesday Reflection:** After Jesus "cleanses" the Temple in John chapter 2 the disciples (of which John is one) are reminded of a prophecy from the Old Testament:

Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." John 2:17 (NLT)

The question I want us to ask today (and tomorrow too) is, "what's the deal with the Temple/ God's house?" Because the Temple of God is an ever changing and transforming concept in the Bible. As I write this I want you to know I learned more about the Temple this week than the rest of my life combined and I've got so much bursting to get out I have no idea how all

of this will go so let's find out, shall we? The origins of the Temple don't begin with the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 1 Kings. They don't even begin with the construction of the Tabernacle in Exodus. No, to see the origins of the Temple we have to go all the way back to the beginning- page one of the Bible and the story of creation. God creates for 6 days and then on the 7th day we are told that God's presence fills this creation and He rests and rules. What does that have to do with the Temple? Well, it's subtle but with both the Tabernacle and the Temple before each was commissioned there was a series of 7 days of speeches, prayers, worship and rituals and on the 7th day God's "Glory" inhabits and fills the Temple where He would rest and rule along with His nation of priests- Israel. Like I said it's a subtle connection but most Old Testament scholars would say that the connections are there.

Then if we turn the page to the second page of the Bible we read about creation from another perspective. In Genesis chapter 2 we are told about a garden that God plants in His good creation. He places humans there to rule in partnership with Him:

*Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made... In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:8-9 (NLT)*

We could get REALLY esoteric here and talk about how Eden was set up very much like the Tabernacle/Temple with the 3 sections and much much more but I'm still trying to wrap my brain around that whole thing so you're spared that mumbo jumbo (my mumbo jumbo- not God's) for today. But I do want to point out what the Bible says about Adam's role in Eden:

*The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend (abad) and watch over (samar) it. Genesis 2:15 (NLT)*

Adam & Eve were to tend (the Hebrew word is "abad") and watch over (the Hebrew word is "samar") Eden. What does that mean, you ask? It means that Adam & Eve were the first priests of God. They were to rule and reign from Eden in partnership with Yahweh. Can you even imagine what that must have been like? Walking with God in the coolness of the evening through the garden paradise He created and asked you to help Him tend. I mean, come on. How could they ever do anything to jeopardize that? But they did (and most likely we would have done the same thing if put in their shoes- or sandals or whatever they wore on their feet back in those days). And so God had to move them out of Eden. The first priesthood was an utter failure but it didn't mean God was done trying to carve out a place where He would rest and rule on this earth in partnership with us humans.

Enter Israel.

When they are encamped around Mt. Sinai God asks them if they want to join Him on His mission to change the world:

*You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Exodus 19:4-6 (NLT)*

This covenant that God entered into with the nation of Israel that day is a conditional one. God has stipulations for His kingdom of priests. How they live will matter. A lot. The 10 Commandments are the stipulations of the covenant. We often talk about the 10 Commandments as though they are an impossible standard to live up to but they're not. Think about what God asks of Israel: Don't worship any other gods; Don't make an idol that you bow down to and worship; Do not misuse the name of Yahweh; Rest on the Sabbath (the

7th day)- don't work on that day; Honor your parents; Don't kill each other; don't "sleep" with anyone who isn't your spouse; Don't steal from each other; Don't tell lies about your neighbor; Don't covet/lust after your neighbor's stuff/spouse.

That's it. That's all Israel had to live up to. God tells them what's expected of them and they say, yes! We're in! We'll be your kingdom of priests on this earth. So God has them construct the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle (and later the Temple) are shadows/copies of the true Tabernacle/Temple that is in Heaven. I'm just thinking out loud here now but as I type this I'm wondering if that shadow/copy of the Tabernacle/Temple that is in Heaven isn't Eden itself and hopefully that wonder will make much more sense on Friday. Anyways the Tabernacle/Temple is a shadow/copy of the true Tabernacle/Temple in heaven but God once again attempts to engage us humans as His partners when it comes to ruling and reigning:

*They will also maintain (samar) all the furnishings of the sacred tent, serving (abad) in the Tabernacle on behalf of all the Israelites. Numbers 3:8 (NLT)*

The "they" that God is talking about here are the Levites- one of the 12 tribes of Israel. They are the ones that God chose to be His priests (even though all of Israel is technically speaking a kingdom of priests). What I want you to notice as we finish up for today is what the job of the Levites will be- they are to maintain (samar) and serve (abad) God in His Tabernacle and later His Temple. Those are exactly the same words God uses when He commissions Adam and Eve in Eden. God hadn't given up on the idea of ruling and reigning this world in partnership with His priesthood. If you know the rest-of-the-story then you know Israel fails miserably. Mainly they refuse to honor the 1st, 2nd and 4th commandments (they broke all the rest of them too but the 1st 2nd and 4th were the reasons God eventually leaves the Temple and departs from Temple, Jerusalem, Israel and the earth.

We'll trace the Temple and priesthood more tomorrow but for today maybe spend some time thinking about how (spoiler alert!!!!) God now wants me and you to be His priests and partners who rule and reign with Him. What does He ask of us? And how are we doing?

**Wednesday Reflection:** Today we will continue to ask the question, "what's the deal with the Temple/God's 'house'". We started yesterday tracing the evolution of the Temple of God from all of Creation to the garden of Eden to the tabernacle to the Temple and that brings us to today. We saw yesterday that God has an obvious desire to "rule and reign" over certain in partnership with humans. We keep messing up our side of the bargain and today we'll see how that continues throughout the Old Testament and eventually the gospels. After 40 years in the wilderness and a few hundred years in the promised land a semi-permanent structure is built on the highest point of the city of Jerusalem:

*That day God came to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite..." " So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor. 2 Samuel 24:18-24 (NLT)*

David won't be allowed to build the Temple because his hands are too bloodied but God assures David that his son would build the Temple. So David collects everything needed to build the Temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem including purchasing the plot of land it will sit on. Eventually Solomon does build Yahweh's Temple in Jerusalem and when they have the dedication ceremony God's glory takes up residence in the Temple:

*When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple. 1 Kings 8:10-11 (NIV)*

The glory cloud filled the Temple just like it did the Tabernacle- just like God's presence filled Creation in Genesis chapter one and just like His presence filled Eden in Genesis chapter two. Israel was to be God's kingdom of priests so that they could be a part of God's plan to bless all the world (including gentiles). All they had to do was to do their best to live up to the stipulations of the covenant (the 10 Commandments). Again- they failed miserably. God sent prophet after prophet to warn Israel that they were failing and if they didn't change their ways God would withdraw from Israel and when that happened it wouldn't be pretty what would follow.

Israel ignored God's warnings and kept living in a way that seemed to make the most sense to them. And so God left Israel and when that happened Babylon came swooping in and conquered them. Babylon destroyed the cities of Judah including Jerusalem. They destroyed the Temple and carried off all of the holy furnishings (lamp stand, tables, altars, etc.) including the Ark Of The Covenant. Then they carried most of the population of Judah away into captivity in Babylon. The people wondered how this could have happened but it's not like God hadn't warned them. Repeatedly. Over the course of 400 years. With prophet after prophet after prophet after prophet after... well you get the picture, right? The people keep asking and so God gives Ezekiel a vision of what happened when God finally reached His breaking point with Israel:

*Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple... stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the Lord's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. Ezekiel 10:18-19 (NIV)*

Nobody else noticed this moment but Ezekiel records it for us. God's "glory cloud"- the visual representation of His presence on this earth- left the Holiest place that was located inside the Temple. Then the cloud goes to the threshold of the Temple before leaving the Temple and then stopping at the eastern gate of Jerusalem. Then this happened:

*The glory of the Lord went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it... Then the vision I had seen went up from me, and I told the exiles everything the Lord had shown me. Ezekiel 11:23-25 (NIV)*

Leaving the eastern gate of the city God's glory then goes up to the top of the Mt. Of Olives before leaving Israel and this earth completely. Why did He leave them alone? Because they would not live up to the agreement they made with God to be a kingdom of priests. And so after repeated warnings God does something that Israel had pretty much decided He would never follow through on- He left them alone. Why? Because they had demonstrated repeatedly that what they wanted is for God to leave them alone. He was simply honoring their request. But God wasn't giving up on His plan to rule and reign over this creation in partnership with humans- the plan would evolve once again:

*I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze... The man said to me, "Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see." Ezekiel 40:3-4 (NIV)*

And what follows is God's description of His "final" Temple. A temple that the Messiah Himself would build. The footprint of this Temple shown to Ezekiel in his vision was massive. It would have been something like 10 times the size of Solomon's Temple. When would it be built? Nobody knew. But they knew that God's plans for partnering with us humans was not over- it was just being altered. We'll continue looking at God's plans for the Temple and the humans who would be priests to abad and samar in that Temple tomorrow but for today maybe spend some time thinking about how often we do what the Israelites did- continuing

to live however we want with little regard for God's warnings and directions to change how we're living before it's too late. If you're like me you enjoy looking down your nose at those Israelites who couldn't get it together even after repeated warnings from God and yet give little attention to my own life and how often I've ignored God's warnings to me.

**Thursday Reflection:** So yesterday we watched as God's glorious presence left the Temple from which He ruled and reigned over His creation with His priests (Israel). What would happen next in the evolution of the Temple and the priesthood of God? Well, the next thing that happens is the Jerusalem Temple gets rebuilt- kind of. After Israel is allowed to go home (the Babylonians get defeated by the Persians and the Persians don't have the same policy when it comes to subservient nations so they let the people of Israel return to Jerusalem) a triumvirate of Nehemiah, Ezra and King Zerubbabel rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem and they also rebuild the Temple. But the rebuilt Temple is a far cry from the glory and splendor of the Temple of Solomon. And even worse- it's a FAR CRY from the Temple that Ezekiel saw in his vision from Ezekiel chapters 40-44. When the elders of Israel who had been very small children when they were taken away from Jerusalem into the captivity of Babylon saw the new Temple they weren't terribly impressed:

But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid. Ezra 3:12 (NIV)

Why did they weep? Because they knew- this couldn't possibly be the final Temple that Ezekiel foresaw in his vision. Which means... this Temple will surely one day be torn down violently just like the first one. They may have also wept because they knew the Ark Of The Covenant was long gone which means that God's glory would not personally dwell in this new Temple like it did in Solomon's Temple.

But they soldiered on alone as it were. Maybe they were hoping that once God saw that they had rebuilt the Temple that His glory would return? They were right and wrong- God's glory would one day return to the Temple but not the way they expected. At any rate, they rebuilt Solomon's Temple on a much less grand scale and life in Israel kind of continued as before with a priesthood and sacrifices but without God's visible presence dwelling within the Temple.

Eventually a man named Herod would become king in Israel. He wasn't Jewish (he was Idumean which meant he was a descendant of Abraham but not of Jacob/Israel- he was a descendant of Abraham through Esau. He only became king of Israel because he was married to a Hasmonean princess (the royal dynasty of Israel during the time between the Old and New testaments) and because Herod was gambling buddies with a man named Marc Antony.

But become the king of Israel Herod did and he embarked on one of the most impressive building campaigns in ancient history. Herod reigned in Israel for 40 years and built some pretty magnificent structures but none as impressive as his extreme makeover of the Temple in Jerusalem which had been built about 500 years before. Herod took the humble structure that had been rebuilt following the destruction of Solomon's Temple and and he turned it into one of the most amazing buildings of the ancient world. Scholars have no doubt that if Herod's Temple had existed when Herodotus made his list of the 7 wonders of the world (we now call that list the 7-Wonders-Of-The-Ancient-World but at the time they left the "ancient" out because... well you know it was modern to them then ;o) then there would have been 8 wonders that included the Jerusalem Temple. It was the largest Temple structure the world had ever seen. The Temple Mount took up about 1/3 of the ancient city of Jerusalem. It was such an impressive complex of buildings and would have completely dominated the view from miles around and anywhere you were in Jerusalem it would have been the most



impressive part of your view. If you've ever seen a picture of the Temple Mount in modern times then you know that Herod's Temple was torn down in 70 AD by the Romans and God's Temple was never rebuilt (at least not in the way the Jews are expecting). Instead a muslim shrine called the Dome Of The Rock and a muslim mosque called the Al-Aqsa Mosque now occupy a small part of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Dome Of The Rock sits directly over the top of what was the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem Temple. The top of the dome sits about where the top of the doors of the Herod's Temple stood which was about halfway to the top of the Temple roof. This was an impressive structure that Herod built.

But God's glory still did not reside within the Temple. Was it impressive? Absolutely. Was it God's dwelling place on this earth? Nope. All of that was changing.

Again.

Tomorrow we'll trace the next evolution of God's Temple on this earth and the priesthood that would rule and reign in partnership with Him but for today maybe spend some time thinking about how often we try to manipulate God into doing what we want Him to do (like Israel tried to do by rebuilding the Temple even though God never asked them to) and what kind of situations it gets us in to.

**Friday Reflection:** So we've been tracing the evolution of God's temple and priesthood this week and today we're going to continue tracing that progression into the New Testament. When Jesus begins His ministry on this earth Herod's Temple is still in the midst of construction. The Temple extreme makeover began in about 15 BC and would continue until 66 AD when it was finished just 4 years before it would be completely destroyed by the Romans and it would never be rebuilt.

Until I went to Israel I never realized that Herod's Temple and Zerubbabel's/Nehemiah's/Ezra's Temple were the same Temple. Herod couldn't tear down the old Temple to build his far more impressive Temple. Worship had to continue. The sacrifices had to continue to he had to do a delicate balancing act that included priests to oversee the construction and ensure that everything was done according to the Jewish traditions. He chose the Jerusalem priests which launched a few priestly families into a position of power of and influence (and eventually wealth) beyond anything that any of them could have imagined. These priests traced their heritage back to a priest named Zadok- the high priest who oversaw the building of Solomon's Temple. They called themselves the Zadok-Ones which in Hebrew is written out as Sadducees. The Sadducees were not all the priest in Israel- they were a tiny minority but because they controlled the Temple they became the most powerful and wealthy families in first century Israel with only a few exceptions. These are the priests that Jesus tangles with throughout the gospels. Why? Because they were a huge part of His mission to this earth- to clean up His Temple. After Jesus "cleansed the Temple" they asked Jesus for a sign to show His authority to do what He had done:

*The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. John 2:18-22 (NLT)*

What's going on here? Jesus is fulfilling prophecy and bringing God's judgment to the Sadducees- the ones who should have been using their power to be a blessing to God's people rather than just using their influence to make themselves fabulously wealthy and powerful. And here we see the next evolution God's plan for His Temple- now for a time the Temple is

actually Jesus' body. Yes, you could still see an impressive building that is called the Jerusalem Temple but God's glory does not reside within it. Where does God's glory reside at that point in time? Within Jesus. He is the next evolution of God's Temple and while the Sadducees might argue that He contains the glory of God everybody knew that Jesus was going to give the Jerusalem priests headaches. How did they know? Because John The Baptist told them:

*But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God... Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3:7-10 (NLT)*

I used to think John's warnings were directed toward all of us. Shape up or face the consequences. Those warnings to exist within in the Bible but these specific warnings are not directed at anyone other than the Sadducees. And what amazes me is that God seems to be giving them another chance to repent- to change their ways and their attitudes and get with God's program rather than advancing only their own. He goes on:

*But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff. Matthew 3:11-12 (NIV)*

Again- I always thought this warning was for me and while there are correlations to other warnings in scripture that I need to be paying attention to this warning is specifically aimed at the Sadducees. How do I know? Because of the language John the Baptist uses. He says the Messiah will have His "winnowing fork" in His hand and that He is coming to "clear His threshing floor". Everybody that was listening to John's warning would have known exactly what John The Baptist was talking about- the Temple.

Do you remember a few days ago we talked about David buying the land for God's Temple from a man named Araunah the Jebusite? Do you remember what Araunah used that land for? He used it as his "threshing floor" which means Araunah probably was a merchant that specialized in processing wheat for local farmers. Just like olive farmers took their crops to a local "gethsemane" or olive press (gethsemane simply means olive press and there were gethsemanes all over ancient Israel and several just in and around Jerusalem which means the place Jesus prayed on the night before His crucifixion wasn't a typical garden but a commercial olive press that wasn't in use at the moment because it wasn't olive harvesting time yet) to be processed there were also local threshing floors where you could take your unprocessed wheat to be separated out from the chaff.

God's Temple was built on a threshing floor and so when John tells the Sadducees that the Messiah has "His winnowing fork in His hand" and is coming to "clear His threshing floor" everyone knew what John was getting at. The Sadducees were in such big trouble!!!!!! I think that's why after Jesus "cleansed the Temple" the Sadducees don't ask who Jesus is or why He did what He did? They only asked for a sign to show He had the authority to do what He did. Why? Because they all expected the Messiah to come to the Temple where He would announce that the kingdom had come and from there would launch the military campaign to expel the oppressors. The Sadducees just never dreamed they might be the oppressors the Messiah was coming to expel.

But they were.



That threshing floor belongs to God and when John The Baptist says that the Messiah will come clear "his" threshing floor they all know what that means. The Sadducees are in big trouble.

The Sadducees eventually team up with the Pharisees and Romans to have Jesus killed and Herod's Temple continues to exist for another 40 years or so but God's Temple has moved on from being a building built with human hands and progressed once again. Remember what John said about the Temple being Jesus' body at that point:

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. John 2:18-22 (NLT)

But that progression from stone building to Jesus' body wasn't the last evolution of God's Temple and priesthood- at His ascension the Temple as His body was detonated throughout the universe and now every follower of Jesus is part of that new evolution of the Temple:

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

Not only does each follower of Jesus now act as a temple of the Holy Spirit but God is using all of us to build the next evolution of His Temple and His priesthood:

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NLT)

You and me- we're priests of God. We are also small individual temples that God is using as bricks or stones to construct the New Testament evolution of His Temple. I still don't understand it but I'm closer than I was last week at this point in my life. What does it all mean? I'm still working that out. But here's something I think we can maybe focus on to at least get started- when Adam & Eve and the Levites were told what their jobs would be when it came to their jobs as priests of God it was to *abad* (to labor; to work; to serve; to make oneself a servant) and *samar* (keep; have charge over; guard; watch; protect) the Temple of God (Eden in Adam & Eve's case and the Tabernacle/Temple in the case of the Levites). Now the Temple of God is your own body (Temples of the Holy Spirit) and God's church (living stones being built into God's Temple). What does it mean to *abad* and *samar* our own bodies? What does it mean to *abad* and *samar* the church? It's going to look different in all of us but one theme stands out as I think about this week's reflections- God really cares that His priests do the jobs He's given us. So *abad* and *samar* today and let me know what you come up with- I'm still trying to work it out myself.