



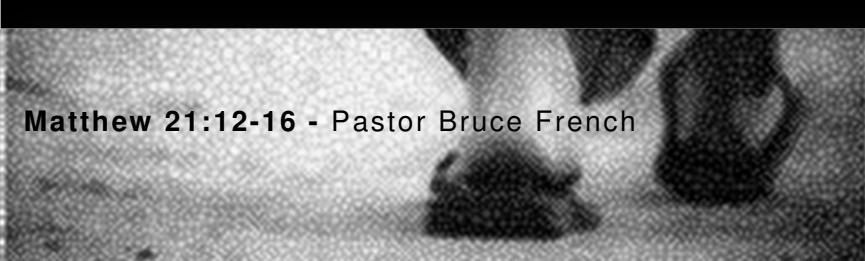
# Who's Invited?

## Who is invited to worship?

1. *Those who acknowledge their \_\_\_\_\_  
are invited into worship. Matthew 21:12-13*

2. *Those who acknowledge their \_\_\_\_\_  
are invited into worship. Matthew 21:14*

3. *Those who acknowledge his \_\_\_\_\_  
are invited into worship. Matthew 21:15*



**Matthew 21:12-16 - Pastor Bruce French**

**Journey with Jesus:** Matthew 14:22-16:23

## TAKE HOME TRUTH

*The \_\_\_\_\_ of worship is offered  
to the \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 21:16*

### Today's Core Practice:

**Worship:** "I worship God for who He is  
and what He has done for me.  
(from Psalm 95:1-7)

### Today's Action:

*Make a commitment to take at least 5  
minutes to stop, pray and ask the Lord  
for forgiveness before you enter a  
worship service.*

hand in  
hand  
verse by  
verse

### Deeper Connection Study

Jesus surveyed the activity at the temple on Sunday and then cursed the fig tree on Monday before entering Jerusalem (Mark 11:11-14). At this point, Matthew picks up the narrative to describe Jesus' vivid display of zeal for God and his special comments about worship in the Lord's house. There is no denying that Jesus wanted to prove a point and make a lasting impression on those who came to the temple that day.

*Today's Core Practice discussed: Worship*



#### Read Matthew 21:12-17 [par. Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-47]

1. What bothered Jesus when he came into the Temple? Who did he address and what accusation did he make (vv. 12-13; cf. Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11)?
2. What is the significance of Jesus' words and actions in light of the activities that took place in the temple (cf. Matt. 12:6)?
3. How was the current religious system a barrier to people worshipping God at the temple? How did this especially affect the poor?
4. How did Jesus reveal both judgment and grace as Messiah? What were the varied reactions to this from the different groups present (vv. 14-16; cf. Ps. 8:2)?
5. If Jesus came into your church, would he find any obstacles that hinder people's worship of God? What would he say or do about it?
6. How has Jesus broken down barriers to enable you to worship God (cf. Eph. 2:12-18)? What does God expect from those who worship Him (cf. Ps. 51:17; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:3)?

**PRAYER TO THE POINT:** Praise God that he sent Jesus to provide salvation for us. Pray that God would remove any barriers that hinder you from worshipping Him. Ask God to point out areas in your own life that need attention so you can humbly exalt Jesus.

# Road to the Cross



Matthew 21:12-16

The “clearing of the temple” is one of the most famous of Jesus’ actions during the Passion Week. Most people can recall his declaration, “My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.” However, few recall the context surrounding that narrative and the central message it produced.

Here in the United States it is common for believers to take Sunday worship for granted, which is exactly what many people were doing in Jesus’ day. Most of these casual worshippers have made an assumption that because God is love, anyone is welcomed into worship, and perhaps you share that same theology. That is a reasonable assumption because it is true, God does want people to worship Him.

However, the fact is that not everyone is invited into worship and this narrative reveals who is invited and who is not. Thus, the question at hand is “Are you on that divine guest list?”