

What Those Who Trust in Jesus Remember
International Bible Lesson

Jeremiah 7:1-12

Sunday, April 6, 2014

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“Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?” (Jeremiah 7:9-10—KJV).

“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are safe!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?” (Jeremiah 7:9-10—NRSV).

Among some people little has changed since God spoke through Jeremiah more than 2500 years ago. In Jeremiah’s day, some preached and many believed that it did not matter to God what abominations you practiced as long as you attended religious rituals regularly. To those who thought they were safe living in sin because they attended temple services, God said, “Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail” (Jeremiah 7:8). When Jesus came He found what some might consider a worse

situation. Some priests and other religious leaders in Jerusalem were acting hypocritically and using money changers in the temple to defraud those who came from near and far to worship God in the temple. Approval from the priests would have been essential for money changers to rob worshipers by using an unjust exchange rate when they changed their foreign coins for approved temple coins (shekels) to give to God in worship. Today, some still think deceptively that because Jesus died for them and because they believe in Jesus it does not matter much if they keep practicing sin and refuse to turn from sinful habits.

Instead of continuing in sin, those who truly trust in Jesus will remember that Jesus declared, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). The Apostle Paul warned those who focused on religious rituals instead of true obedience, “Obeying the commandments of God is everything” (1 Corinthians 7:19). — © Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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4. Why do you think the priests allowed the money changers and those who sold doves for sacrifices keep cheating the people, both before and after Jesus cleansed the temple?

5. Why do you think Jesus quoted from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament prophets) after He cleansed the temple?

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