

Matthew 21-10-31b

Let's continue our study now in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 21 looking at Jesus cleansing the temple Driving out those who bought and sold in the temple overturning the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves He said to them it is written this is the Condemnation this is the Foundation this is what Jesus should not have had to say because it is written Who is in charge of the writings? Who is in charge of preserving them and copying them and presenting them and teaching them and inculcating them to the people? Particularly at these assembly feasts. He is talking to the people who ought to know better and of course, it's not hard to turn the corner into application and realize that we To have a responsibility to do something with what is written But when Jesus quotes this We know from long experience that this is just a footnote. This is a hyperlink back to the entire Context the entire passage of Scripture and your Bible probably has a footnote there for my house shall be called a house of prayer It taking us back to Isaiah chapter 56 so let's turn back to Isaiah 56 and See what Jesus is calling to their minds, although they are not thinking about it Although they are not Reflecting on it and seeking to apply it.

They're very familiar with this passage These scrolls were read regularly in the synagogues and at the temple So when you go back to Isaiah chapter 56 thus says the Lord and right away What is happening in the temple? receives its just condemnation Keep justice and do righteousness for my salvation is about to come and my righteousness to be revealed This is what Hosanna means this is what the delivered King Represents salvation righteousness Blessed is the man who does this and the son of man who lays hold on it who keeps from defiling the Sabbath and Keeps his hand from doing any evil Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord speak saying the Lord has utterly Separated me from his people nor let the eunuchs say here I am a dry tree for thus says the Lord to the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths and choose what pleases me and hold fast my covenant Even to them I will give in my house and within my walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love the name of the Lord to be his Servants everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath and holds fast my covenant Even them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations The Lord God who gathers the outcasts of Israel says yet I will gather others besides those who are gathered to him this is Prophetic this is a harbinger Jesus quotes this on this occasion. He didn't quote it in John chapter 2 What was the quotation in John chapter 2? That his disciples remembered when they saw him with the whip of cords Driving the oxen and the sheep and the money changers out of the court.

What was that quote? Do you remember turn back to John chapter 2 These have meaning and purpose John chapter 2 verse 13 and following This is the the first occasion Happy little tune there In verse 17 his disciples remembered that it was written zeal for your house has eaten me up And if you look at your note there, that is Psalm 69. We'll be looking at Psalm 69 here momentarily zeal for your house has Consumed me Zeal for your house impels me This is a righteous zeal it is directed it is timed it is controlled it is For a specific purpose Same thing that we have here, but we have a different set of Old Testament quotations we're going to be seeing Three different passages out of Matthew 21, but turn first to the one quoted in John, which is Psalm 69 Psalm 69 this is a wonderful psalm in times of trouble Save me O God Once again save deliver. This is our This is our same word group that is in view with Hosanna with Yeshua Save me O God for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire where there is no standing I have come into deep waters where the floods overflow me. I'm weary with my crying My throat is dry. My eyes fail while I wait for my God Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head.

They are mighty who would destroy me Being my enemies wrongfully Though I have stolen nothing. I still must restore it. I'm paying a price That I did not Incur Oh God, you know, my foolishness and my sins are not hidden from you Let not those who wait for you Oh Lord God of hosts be ashamed because of me Let not those who seek you be confounded because of me Oh God of Israel Because for your sake I have borne reproach Shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my brothers and an alien to my mother's children Because zeal for your house has eaten me up and the reproaches of those who reproach you Have fallen on me You see how apropos? When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting that became my reproach. I also made sackcloth my garment I became a byword to them those who sit in the gate speak against me the judges the rulers the authorities And I am the song of the drunkards Song of the drunkards people celebrating without knowledge without wisdom without understanding But as for me, my prayer is to you Oh Lord in the acceptable time Oh God in the multitude of your mercy hear me in the truth of your salvation Deliver me out of the mire and let me not sink Let me be delivered from those who hate me and out of the deep waters Let not the flood water overflow me nor let the deep swallow me up. Let not the pit shut its mouth on me Hear me Oh Lord for your loving kindness is good Turn to me according to the multitude of your tender mercies and do not hide your face from your servant for I am in trouble Hear me speedily draw near to my soul and redeem it deliver me because of my enemies You know my reproach my shame and my dishonor my adversaries are all before you Reproach has broken my heart and I am full of heaviness I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none and for comforters, but I found none They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst.

They gave me vinegar to drink Let their table become a snare before them and their well-being a trap Let their eyes be darkened so that they do not see and make their loins shake continually pour out your Indignation upon them and let your wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their dwelling place be desolate let no one live in their tents for they persecute the ones you have struck and Talk of the grief of those you have wounded Add iniquity to their iniquity and let them not come into your righteousness Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and not be written with the righteous But I am poor and sorrowful. Let your salvation.

Oh God set me up on high I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with thanksgiving This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull Which has horns and hooves the humble shall see this and be glad and you who seek God your hearts shall live For the Lord hears the poor and does not despise his prisoners Let heaven and earth praise him the seas and everything that moves in them for God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah That they may dwell there and possess it Also, the descendants of his servants shall inherit it and those who love his name Shall dwell in it You have to think that this scripture was in the mind and the heart of the Lord Jesus both at the beginning and at the end of his Public presentation his public ministry his public offering of himself and his kingdom to God's people He knew what he was doing. He knew why he was doing it he knew when and how to do it and this is a wonderful example for us to endeavor to follow to seek to emulate is To be used by God there is a time for passion. There is a time for strength.

There is a time for making an issue out of the truth and there are other times that serve other purposes and It's very instructive that only on these two occasions Does Jesus act in this manner and there's a reason for it. There is a time and a place To make an issue of the truth and it's not every time and every place How do we know the times in the seasons? That's why God gave us his spirit. That's why we study his word That is Psalm 69 zeal for your house has consumed me zeal for your house I Suffer for your name.

I am Disapproved I am judged by those in the gate For wrongs, I have never committed you think about the testimony of Believers in our time in our society in this age right now Judged for wrongs. We have not committed despised rejected excoriated bad-mouthed insulted Oppressed suppressed The Lord Jesus knows all about this and his cause was far greater and He paid a far greater price in the service of that will of the Father Well in our passage, we are going to see Jesus quote three different Passages from the Old Testament two of them here as he drives out the money changers Overturns their tables and the seats of the one selling doves. He said to them it is written my house shall be called a house of prayer and This is in Isaiah chapter 56 We read that the second Quote you have made it a den of thieves and this is Jeremiah chapter 7 So turn with me to Jeremiah chapter 7 the specific quote is from verse 11 But in chapter 7 of Jeremiah the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord said stand in the gate of the Lord's house Stand in the gate of the Lord's house and Proclaim this word and say hear the word of

the Lord all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord Thus says the Lord of hosts the God of Israel Amend your ways and your doings and I will cause you to dwell in this place Do not trust in these lying words Saying the temple of the Lord the temple of the Lord the temple of the Lord are these If you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor If you do not oppress the stranger the fatherless and the widow and do not shed Innocent blood in this place or walk after other gods to your hurt Then I will cause you to dwell in this place in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever Behold you trust in lying words that cannot profit Will you steal murder commit adultery swear falsely burn incense to Baal? Walk after other gods whom you do not know then come and stand before me in this house Which is called by my name and say we are delivered to do all these abominations We are saved to do these abominations Has this house which is called by my name become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold I even I have seen it says the Lord Now go to my place which was in Shiloh where I set my name at the first See what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel and now because you have done all these works It says the Lord and I spoke to you rising up early and speaking But you did not hear and I called you, but you did not answer therefore I will do to the house which is called by my name in which you trust and To this place which I gave you and your fathers as I have done to Shiloh And I will cast you out of my sight as I have cast out all your brethren the whole posterity of Ephraim Therefore do not pray for this people nor lift up a cry or prayer for them nor make intercession to me for I will not hear you Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? You could substitute Some modern place names right there.

Do you not see what they do in? Cities in the United States and in the streets of our capital The children gather wood the fathers kindle the fire and the women need dough to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven They pour out drink offerings to other gods that they may provoke me to anger Do they provoke me to anger says the Lord? Do they not provoke themselves to the shame of their own faces? Therefore thus says the Lord God behold my anger and my fury will be poured out on this place on man and on beast on The trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground and it will burn and not be quenched Thus says the Lord of hosts the God of Israel add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat meat For I did not did I not speak to your fathers who command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices This is what I commanded them saying obey my voice and I will be your God and you shall be my people Walk in all the ways that I've commanded you that it may be well with you Yet they did not obey or incline their ear but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts and went backward and not forward Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day I've even sent to you all my servants the prophets daily rising up early and sending them Yet they did not obey me or incline their ear but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you You shall also call to them, but

they will not answer you So you shall say to them this is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth Cut off your hair and cast it away Take up a lamentation on the desolate heights for the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight says the Lord They have set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name to pollute it The Returnees that we've been seeing in Haggai and in Zechariah are rebuilding the house and it's their good luck charm When they look at it when they think of it, they figure well We're we're going to come to no harm because we're rebuilding the Lord's house Look at what that gets this the successive generations afterward there is a Form of godliness that denies the power their externalities and We can even deceive ourselves into thinking that we are faithful thinking that we are obedient thinking that we are righteous And we do not have the humility to receive correction The Word of God is profitable among other things for correction and instruction in righteousness Judah did not heed Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth and They say well, we don't have idols anymore. Nobody is weeping for Tammuz in the temple courts What are in what's in the temple courts when Jesus? Gets there these money changers these people who are Motivated by a desire for profit by a Opportunity an opportunity to exploit their fellow Israelites exploiting people who are Allegedly ostensibly coming to worship God.

They're taking advantage of them This is no different than setting up idols in the temple this What is another word for covetousness Covetousness which is idolatry Covetousness which is idolatry So this is just idolatry in another form Bringing into the temple courts that which does not belong So Jesus quotes this You have made it a den of thieves the real test of the celebratory parade crowd on Sunday Comes on Monday What do you think was going on in the temple on Tuesday? Do you think the tables of the money changers were set back up because Passover is just a couple of days away? Do you think the oxen and the sheep and the doves? Were brought back in and it was business as usual the very next day of Course it was This is quite clearly and obviously an An object lesson it is a symbolic cleansing Jesus could have erected a force field and not allowed anyone to get into the courtyard of the temple he could have done to the people there what he did to the fig tree and Withered them all away the earth could have opened and swallowed them up But they're right back doing business probably later that same day. He drives them out But they are going to soon return why They do not receive Correction they do not hear truth when it is spoken They don't absorb it. They don't think you know I really have made the house of the Lord a den of thieves What am I doing here? What's the matter with me? I need to wake up and change my ways I need to get into another profession.

Why don't I set up outside the temple and Compete with a fair business I could corner the market being fair everybody would come to me because they're not charged exorbitant prices for sacrificial animals And they're not being rapaciously taken

advantage of when they exchange their money so that they can Can worship God with it in the temple? But of course they don't do that What a scary thing to hear the Lord Jesus himself Say it is written And not be changed not be moved not examine Our own heart to see if we are in the faith to not let that truth penetrate To not do what Jesus told his disciples just days earlier let these words sink down into your ears This is what is going to happen Son of man is going to be arrested He's going to be mocked and scourged and crucified And he's going to rise again the third day the disciples are not hearing the Lord Jesus the people in the temple Precincts are not hearing the Lord Jesus There is no more powerful Bible class than one delivered from the lips of the Lord himself Bible class does not change us We change us Hearing the word and responding to it. It's our choice Hearing the mellifluous tones of someone reciting scripture or teaching the word or presenting the truth Does not change us hearing is not a substitute for doing Does it sound familiar is there a passage somewhere in the later New Testament that says be ye doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving your own selves Looking at the truth looking into the law of Liberty like a mirror walking away and straightway forgetting what we see You think about us you think about? We in our church if the Word of God is not actively motivating Correcting rebuking and instructing us. Where is it happening is? There a clearer Presentation of the Word of God and that clarity is making it happen Is there anything we don't understand about these passages is there anything obscure? We're not having to parse grammar.

We're not having to heavily interpret Hebrew and Greek here The truth is near it is on our lips and in our hearts But that is not what creates change that is not what? Repentance is repentance is us listening and changing our minds changing our ways changing our hearts Believe me if the Lord Jesus teaching scripture Doesn't change a heart me Presenting scripture isn't going to change anybody's heart if the Lord Jesus can't do it Anybody lesser than him which is everybody can't do it either We are the only ones who can change our hearts when we hear the truth of God's Word spoken and The Lord Jesus when he quotes these words these entire passages from Isaiah 56 from Psalm 69 from Jeremiah chapter 7 and from Psalm 8 which he is going to quote here in a moment those words have been heard from the lips of the scribes and Those who present and read in the synagogues over and over and over again You think about our memory verses by the way our website which is back up now if you've lost your ring of memory verses the entire page with all of our verses is Still there you can click it. You can review it see how many you recall you can copy it and paste it into something and print them Don't lose The value thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee I might not It all depends. What do I do with the implanted seed? Does it sink in does it germinate does it sink its roots in does it bear fruit? That's up to us There was a huge mistake made in the brand of church that that I attended many of us attended in earlier days where there was an unconscious equivalence made between attending and hearing Bible class and living a healthy Christian life and The churches of that day and I can think of four right off the top of my head all of those churches are

gone G o n e gone The groups split the believers dispersed and they were solid teaching exegetical isagogical categorical presentations of the Word of God made two three four or five times a week in those churches and they are gone and the people who were in them have scattered and I will tell you my diagnosis There was in many cases.

I think unconsciously an Equivalence that well, I attend this church and the teaching is good. Therefore. I am a healthy Christian It's not true, it's not so Look at these people that the Lord Jesus has been talking to for three years Look at him talk to them in the temple precincts He speaks the truth every word out of his mouth is coming out of the Old Testament out of the scriptures that these people know And they're going to crucify him three days hence If that doesn't scare us there's something wrong That the Lord Jesus Christ can present the Word of God as clear as a bell and hearts do not change They do not change because they are unwilling to change and so I have to ask myself.

Am I willing to change? Am I willing to? Respond to the light of the word the truth of the word the presence and power of the Holy Spirit Which in their defense these people lacked they could have had it The spirit was available by request Simeon had it Anna had it Mary and Joseph had it I Think Zechariah and Elizabeth had it There was a ministry of the Spirit available. It wasn't ubiquitous How much less excuse do we have when we get it not having to make requests? We all have the Spirit present with us. We are sealed.

We are dwelt indwelt. We are gifted We are cleansed. We are convicted And Don't even have to ask for it.

These people Lack the Spirit Could have had it didn't request it didn't seek it didn't cultivate it, but they could have Jesus is not talking to no effect in John chapter 3 when he's conversing with Nicodemus and he says look The Spirit's available. He's like the wind he's blowing he's he's coming from here and going to there and there are people who are born of the Spirit and And you've got to be born again, you've got to have spirit life and It was available It is ubiquitous for us. How much less excuse do we have? So Be afraid When you look at the cleansing of the temple at the beginning and at the end, these are bookends.

These are brackets What is the response now? Look at some who do respond look at the very next verse in Matthew 21 Then the blind and the lame came to him in the temple and he healed them those who recognized their deficiency those who were Aware of their weakness their blindness Their inability to walk of all of the possible things, you know lepers couldn't couldn't come anywhere near there The lepers have to be met on the road outside and and in the crowds and in rural areas and the outskirts of villages But the blind and the lame came to him To specific maladies, I can't see I can't walk When they come to the Lord Jesus and present that weakness now, they can see now they can walk It is a decision to come and recognize who Jesus is again, this is symbolic We don't know what was in the hearts of each of the blind and lame people. Maybe they

Recognized he was the Messiah. Maybe not but it is recorded here for our instruction If we continue to say I see our sin is going to remain So what Jesus told the Pharisees we've seen it many times Because you say we see your sin remains We acknowledge that we need Awareness from God we need God's truth We need God's light so that we can see and walk the blind and the lame came to him and he healed them but That's one response When the chief priests and scribes saw the amazing things that he did and the children crying out in the temple and saying Hosanna To the Son of David, this is so fascinating.

This is male children. These are the boys Who are age 12 and up? remember when Jesus came at the age of 12 and was at the temple talking to the scribes and the scholars these boys heard on Monday the crowd coming down and saying Hosanna to the Son of David and they are Repeating it They are repeating what they heard the preceding day And it's it's learned it was Observed the previous day and they mimic that they imitate that the following day The children that actually it says that these are these are male children these are These are boys Boys were crying out in the temple and saying Hosanna to the Son of David. They were indignant And so they said to him do you hear what these are saying Jesus said to them yes Have you never read once again all of their all they're getting now is scripture and it's familiar scripture And of course, they're going to be indignant because as soon as he says have you never read they're gonna say well Of course, I've read I know more scripture than you Have you never read out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants? You have perfected praise This comes from Psalm 8 There's two things we want to see about this before we finish turn to the 8th Psalm Once again, it is the entirety of the psalm that is in view.

Oh Lord our Lord how excellent is your name in all the earth who have set your glory above the heavens? Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants. You have ordained strength praise Because of your enemies that you may silence the enemy and the Avenger Why does Jesus not tell the boys to be quiet He heard them Have you heard these? Chants, Jesus says yes, I have heard it their Praise their shout of Hosanna just like the preceding day Even out of the mouths of those who don't know what they're saying That's what babes and nursing infants are the noises they make are Unconscious They can communicate They're uncomfortable in some way. Do they need to be burped? Do they need to be changed? Do they need to be fed? Do they need to be removed from overstimulation I Always went down the five things I could count on the fingers of one hand anytime one of our babies was was crying when they cry out check the five things and Those are all okay, then they're okay Check them for a temperature check if they're wet check if they're hungry check if they're got some kind of a digestive issue Check if they're being overstimulated Tired and need to go down or whatever, but they don't know that they are communicating when they cry They're just it's an instinctive expression of discomfort But they don't know what they're saying, but we can figure out why they are crying out God has ordained this praise strength Why? God has ordained it

because of enemies To silence the enemy and the Avenger So when Jesus quotes this in the presence of these indignant authorities He doesn't have to quote the rest of the verse they know it already Have you never read out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise they can fill in the rest Who's who's the enemy here who's the one who is reacting and Becoming some sort of social justice warrior here The accusers Look at the rest of this psalm When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have ordained What is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you visit him? You've made him a little lower than the angels in Hebrew.

This is the Elohim the gods small g which are For our purposes the angels it's an okay translation, and it's translated on galas in the greek in the new testament And you have crowned him with glory and honor you have made him to have dominion over the work of your hands You've put all things under his feet all sheep and oxen What are the two things Jesus drove out in the first cleansing? sheep and oxen all sheep and oxen Even the beasts of the field the birds of the air and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas O Lord our Lord how excellent is your name in all the earth begins and ends With O Lord our Lord how excellent is your name? Jesus ministry begins and ends With a similar bookend we just have you look at one other thing while you're there in psalm 8. This is a good example of a Convenience that is often overlooked in your King James and your new King James Take a look at O Lord our Lord. What do you notice there take a look at the typeface? Do you notice that the first Lord is in small caps and the second one is in standard type? Do you know why that is? Small caps is the tetragrammaton Yahweh Oh Yahweh our Adonai Because the scribes would never say Yahweh They would point the tetragrammaton with the vowels for Adonai So when they would read Psalm 8 they would say Oh Adonai our Adonai much as our English says O Lord our Lord, but in the original this is God's covenant name. Oh Yahweh our Adonai Lord and That doubling of the Lord You can't help but Have the suggestion come to your mind that the dual nature and the dual purpose of the Lord Jesus as the God-man as the suffering servant and the coming King are Bracketed in his ministry with the cleansing of the temple in the same way that you see that dual identity bracketing Psalm 8 that is such a wonderful summary of so many things where We are humbled for a time we suffer for a time We endure for a time, but when we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of the Lord We are exalted in due time the Lord Jesus humbled himself But he is now exalted to the right hand of the Father and There's there's a powerful lesson there in the cleansing of the temple and the quotation Out of the mouths of babes and nurse a nursing infants the helpless who cry out for Sustenance who cry out for aid who cry out for help in a time of discomfort.

That's what babies do and That's what we do We recognize our inability. We recognize our blindness our lameness We recognize our need and that heart of repentance is Where God's power comes We see ourselves as babes and nursing infants, but from our

mouth can issue praise we don't always know how to pray we do not pray as we ought we don't always know what to say or how to say it But if we have that heart of humility Recognizing that there is a cup to drink. There is a cross to bear There is a road to walk and it's not always a sunny Pleasant smooth road sometimes it takes us through the valley of the shadow of death But we fear no evil why? God is with us Emmanuel God with us To think about the Lord Jesus and his faithfulness to think about the cup that he discussed with James and John just on the preceding page and As he enters into Jerusalem He's not waiting for this cup to be pressed to his lips and poured down his throat the Lord Jesus Went to the temple and provoked this response Come out of your hiding come out of your hypocrisy come out of your sham Righteousness and show who you truly are And when he comes down and cleanses that temple in God's time and in God's way with God's Word on his lips the response he provokes is Instrumental in fulfilling the plan and purpose of God.

This is the Lord Jesus reaching out and taking hold of the cup He does it on purpose He is forcing them out into the open just the way God forced Pharaoh in Egypt out into the open with the plagues Pharaoh hardened his own heart and God used that hardened heart to make an example out of Egypt in this day and in this time decisions have to be made and We do so prayerfully we do so in the light of God's Word But there is a time when pressure hits when the conflict is brought to our doorstep that we stand and We press with the Word of God and we trust in God for our deliverance and It's an ultimate deliverance. It's not necessarily an immediate deliverance. There can be short-term loss If we deny ourselves and take up our cross there can be dark days the question is Where is our heart? Where is our love? What do we really love? What do we really want by way of deliverance? Do I want an easy life or do I want to reflect the glory of God? Am I ready to do what the Lord Jesus did am I able to drink the cup that he hands me? Do I know how to drink that cup? Do I know how to reach out and take hold of it when the time comes? These are questions we ask ourselves This is what the Word of God enables and empowers us to do This is what the Spirit of God enables and empowers us to do.

That's why we have the Word in a form unprecedented in human history Never has anybody had the access to the Word of God we have Never has anybody had the fulsome ministry of the Holy Spirit Because of that fulsome word the Holy Spirit can say a lot more and do a lot more with each one of us The question is are we going to retreat into the shadows? Are we going to stand up and be counted? The Lord Jesus did not retreat into the shadows on the occasion of this Passover Knowing that he was going to die He did the parade and he cleansed the temple Jesus is no shrinking violet, and we shouldn't be either Well, we have a lot more to see and to say about this When we come to the fig tree, but our last verse here verse 17 after Jesus spoke these words made this issue He left them and went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there Went out to Bethany Didn't stay in the city What's going to happen when he leaves? What are these? Scribes and chief priests and Pharisees and leaders of the people. What are they going to

do? They are going to plot his death this is the last straw and Jesus went down there and Made this happen. He's forcing them to do something about him so He's not a victim He is Squarely in the center of his father's will that's where we want to be.

We are not victims We have the ability to choose we have the ability to avail ourselves of all of the things that God has provided for us It is a time for courage. It is a time for dwelling in God's strength The shadow of the Almighty is a great place to be let's close here in a word of prayer father thank you for the truth of your word, thank you for the Fascinating and compelling example of the Lord Jesus In these days and knowing full well What your will was for his life? He did not shrink from it. He was bold in his obedience and in his trust in you and we pray that Inspired by that example we can similarly live as his representative as his body in this world to shine a light in the midst of an ever-darkening and Ever more crooked generation and we pray that we can be those who Can be counted on to fulfill your word and your plan In our corner of the woods we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen