

Overflow Ministries

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The Bride Of Christ

John 2:16 Jesus said "Take these things away; stop making My father's house a place of business."

In John 2:13-17 there is a picture of Jesus that most people don't really care to talk about. In this scene, Jesus is MAD! Yep that's right, MAD. In fact, He's having what my mom used to call a HISSY FIT! He's just walked into to His Father's house, which is supposed to be a house of prayer, and found it littered with Market Place Ministry! The money changers are there (the Message Bible calls them loan sharks) ready to make a fast buck on those who haven't got the right coins for the treasury. And along the front of the vestibule and outside in the parking lot, there are scores of people selling sheep, oxen, doves and a variety of temple sacrifices.

What I find so interesting about this scene is Jesus' response. The One who instructed us to bless and not curse and to love others as ourselves makes a whip and begins tearing through the place like a mad man! What on EARTH (pun intended) got under His skin to drive Him to such radical behavior! I believe that verse 17 tells us the answer. "ZEAL FOR MY HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

The one thing that Jesus has to look forward to at the end is His Bride. The church is the Bride Of Christ. Something tells me

that when Jesus arrived on this scene, it was a bit like a husband finding his wife in bed with another man. The church is supposed to be operating by faith and being a blessing to people. But this church had found a way to capitalize on the people that were coming through the doors.

Unfortunately this scene, while not quite as vivid, is still played out in many churches these days. Too many are finding themselves trying to cover their expenses, rather than seeking to serve the communities that they are in. They've prostituted themselves by operating by the world's standards (the spirit of mammon) rather than by the Spirit of God. They've forgotten how to live by faith and not by sight.

In these days of economic upheaval our faith will be sorely tested. What you really believe will be exposed. What you have put your faith in will be shaken. Only those things that are eternal will be able to withstand the shaking. But take heart, God has not abandoned us. He promises that if we will turn back to Him and draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. He wants a Bride that is totally committed to His Son. He has chosen His Church for such a time as this; to rise up from the heap of gloom that is all around us and shine forth His Glory. There may be some things that have to go from our lives during this process. But know this; as you submit yourself to the Lord and trust in Him with all Your heart, He will make all your paths straight. He wants you to depend on Him, rely on Him and know that He is Your Husband (sorry guys, you're part of the BRIDE too!).

God is looking for a bride that He can present to His son Jesus. This bride will be pure and clean; without spot, wrinkle or

blemish. She will be beautiful beyond compare. She will be dazzling in her bride attire and all the world will be stunned by her. The Bride Of Christ is being made ready. Are you preparing a place for Him to abide? What needs to go in order for the Spirit to overflow in your life? Let His light shine on the places in your life that need to be cleaned up. Prepare the way of the Lord; make ready a place for His Spirit to dwell in your life every moment of every day.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive me for trusting in the ways of the world. Help me to walk in Your ways. Teach me how to listen to Your voice and how to be led by Your Spirit. I need Your grace and power in my life, now more than ever. Thank You that You are my ever present Help and that Your love for me is unending! In Jesus Name, AMEN