

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #75

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 19:45-48

Sermon Date: Mar 11, 2007

Don't Mess with God's House

Who's in charge at church? If things started getting out of hand, who would step in and "clean things up?" Is this the pastor's job? Well, sure, to some extent. How about the elders? Yes, we'd look to them to take corrective action. Then again, our church structure is "congregational" in governance, so actually it's the members who have responsibility for making sure the church stays on a biblical track.

But there's more to it than this. There is one specific person who is in charge of the church. Jesus Christ.

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body ..." (Eph 1:22-23).

In this week's study passage, we'll see a demonstration of this authority, and discover an opportunity to join Christ in loving, protecting, even sacrificing for the church – for the community of all true believers in Christ.

As we begin, let's first ask our heavenly Father to help us understand His Word and see how it applies to our lives – so we can better know Him, follow Him, and love Him.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week’s Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have. Also read and reflect on the two other parallel gospel accounts.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 19:45-48</p> <p>⁴⁵ Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be a house of prayer”; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”</p> <p>⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PARALLEL PASSAGES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark 11:15-19</p> <p>¹⁵ On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’?”</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”</p> <p>¹⁸ The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, they went out of the city.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 21:12-17</p> <p>¹² Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’”</p> <p>¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. ¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.</p> <p>“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’?” ¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Back:

4. Jesus quotes two Old Testament passages as he is driving out those who were selling in the temple. Exploring the context of these quotes can help us understand what Jesus meant (just as it would have done for his Jewish hearers at the time, who would likely have recognized these scriptural connections).

- a. What is Isaiah 56:1-7 about? How does its meaning relate to Luke 19:45-48?

- b. What is Jeremiah 7:1-29 about? How does its meaning relate to Luke 19:45-48?

5. Now look back at two previous scenes in the gospels.

- a. How does Luke 19:45-46 relate to Luke 19:41-42?

- b. While the Luke 19:45-48 event in the temple is written about in three of the gospels, there is also an account of another time (a separate event) when Jesus cleared merchants out of his Father's temple. Find that passage, and then compare and contrast the two temple-clearing events. What similarities do you see? What differences?

Turn the Tables:

6. Now look closer at Luke 19:45-48, examining the good and the bad things that happen, and then letting God "turn the tables" and help you apply it to your own life.

- a. List as many good things as you can find which occurred in the temple in this passage:
 - b. What do you think was wrong with what the merchants were doing in the temple? Why was Jesus so upset with them?

- c. What selfish or impure motives do people today sometimes have for going to church or for what they do in church? Which of these do you sometimes struggle with?

- d. Looking at your life in general, what are some "tables" that need to be "turned over"? (i.e. areas where your current motives, attitudes, or behaviors aren't pleasing to God) How could you deal with these better?

- e. On the other hand, what does (or could) Christ-like zeal for God's church look like for us today? How can we better protect the purity of the church, and imitate Christ's passion and sacrifice for the church? What could you do in this regard?

7. Summing things up, what do you see as the main point of this passage, and how does it apply to your life? What could you do this week in response?