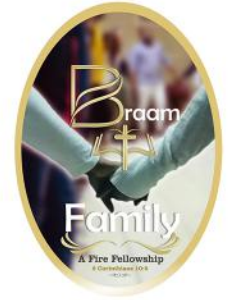

APRIL 05th, 2021, BRAMM FAMILY

KEEP THE ZEAL



Keeping a fired-up zeal for Christ is one of the most difficult challenges any Christian can face. And that is because we get carried away and caught up with our everyday life and routines that we start lacking in being intentional, zealous and consistent with Christ. But something amazing about the bible is that there are many relatable stories that we can learn from. Therefore we will be analysing John 2:13-22. This passage speaks about the zeal Jesus had for the temple of God which was contrary to how the Israelite treated the temple. And this exposes their attitude to the things of God.

BRAAMFAMILY.CO.ZA

When reading John 2:13-22, we realise that instead of focusing on the Jewish Passover that was at hand, the people were focused more on selling cattle, sheep, doves and exchanging money. Jesus who is seen as zealous for the temple of God, according to verse 17, He drove them all out from the temple saying; stop turning my father's house into a market. The temple was meant to be a house of prayer, a place of worship, it was where God could dwell amongst His people, but a holy place was turned into a marketplace.

The zeal that the Israelites had for the temple of God (a temple that could not be defiled) was lost. The primary reason that zeal was lost was that their focus was shifted. Sometimes we lose the true vision God gives us because we lose focus on what he told us; we get carried away with the stresses of this world and allow other things to occupy our minds. This loss in vision can prevent us from receiving what God has prepared for us.

Jesus had a renewed mind. He did not see the temple of God the way the rest of Israel saw it. His ability to focus on the original purpose for the temple came from a renewed mind. The bible says in Romans 12:1-2, that we should not conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of the mind so that we will know the good, pleasing and perfect will of God. Jesus walked in the will of God because his mind was renewed.

For us to remain zealous for the things of God we should keep our focus on the vision, and that focus comes from not conforming to the pattern of the world around us. The people did not only lose the essence of the temple but also did not focus on the preparation of the celebration of the Passover. The same Zeal Jesus had for his father's temple is the same zeal the Holy Spirit has for your body which is His temple. Jesus did not allow just anything in the temple, in the same way, the Holy Spirit is protective over your body which belongs to God.

Another thing that we need to analyse about Jesus is that he corrected the people. As a leader you should also confront the people you are leading when you realize that they are going on a bad path. When you see a need for correction, act upon it. You must have order and discipline in the things you do. The latter also applies to the word of God; sometimes we do not act because we do not keep the word of God (Joshua 1:8). Knowing the word of God is knowing the will of God, and that gave Jesus the confidence to confront the people.



The main idea behind the main scripture is to bring back the fire that is dying in any area of our lives. Sometimes when we give our lives to Christ, at the beginning we are committed but as time goes, we start to leave out the good habits. We lose the vision and become empty. We need to bring back the zeal for our service to God (Isaiah 62:1). God is waiting for you to go back to your first love.

Do not let time get you away from your good habits. God will restore you for you to keep up with the work and give you a willing spirit. We need to get to a point where we do things to reignite our passion for Christ. When the confidence in our work for Christ is present, sharing this passion becomes easier. **Live a life that will fuel the fire in you.**

