

Twenty-Four Seven – Week 2 – Not In My House Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

## **Scripture:**

Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!"

The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David."

But the leaders were indignant. They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'" Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight.

Matthew 21:12-21

He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

Mark 11:17

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Eddie shared this quote from Philip Yancey, "The Jesus I learned about as a child was sweet and inoffensive, the kind of person whose lap you'd want to climb on. Mister Rogers with a beard." What misconceptions might you have about Jesus?
- Read Matthew 21:12-17. Take a moment and reflect on this story. What from this story challenges or encourages you? If you've read this story before, what resonated with you differently this time?
- Read Mark 11:17. Why do you think Mark includes these details? How should this challenge us to love everyone?
- Eddie shared this insight, "it is dangerous to be a spiritual insider." What does this teach us? How does this challenge you personally?
- Eddie also shared this, "the invitation of Jesus is to BE, not simply to DO... It's natural produce, not manufactured product." What does that mean for your life? What are you becoming?
- Look over the prayer practices listed below. Circle one that you want to practice this week.

#### **Invitations to Practice:**

## Prayer Practice

#### Silence and Solitude -

Find a quiet place where you can truly be alone. Set a timer for 5-10 minutes and just be silent in God's presence. Ask God to speak to you. Focus on being rather than doing. Eddie invited us to focus on being genuine followers of Jesus rather than doing. When we do this, we will see fruit naturally produced. So as you sit with God, listen for ways you can follow Jesus more closely. Are you being called to surrender something to him, realign your schedule, just be in His presence more? This would a be a great regular practice to introduce into your weekly rhythms.

# Lent (Spring) Season Reflection -

In the weeks between now and Easter, as Christ-followers, we remember Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness and his journey toward the cross. Use the free <u>PDF linked here</u> to prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to do over the next several weeks. Let's make room to walk with Jesus intentionally in this season.