

~ DRAINING THE SWAMP ~

Matthew 21:12-17 (continued from last week)

INTRODUCTION: I have been thinking lately, as I study Jesus' cleansing of the Temple, that our Lord made more enemies during His public ministry than He made friends. There were multitudes of superficial "friends" who followed Jesus as long as it benefitted them. Once Jesus "crossed" them with His teaching, at best they were gone, or, at worse they openly turned against Him. I found it interesting this morning when I opened my e-mails there was this e-mail sent to me last evening from Gary Weeks that he titled in the Subject line - "A Little Light Reading"

- Anonymous -

"He has no enemies you say? My friend, your boast is poor:

He who fights valiantly in the fray the brave endure,

Must have made foes. If he has none, small is the work that he has done.

He has opposed no traitor's stand; has rescued none from Satan's hand,

Has never turned the wrong to right, He's been a coward in the fight!

Sleep well Russ.....

To be fair and balanced Jesus wept over Jerusalem, the city that would crucify Him, and He prayed to His Father as they nailed Him to the Cross - "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Yes, Jesus made enemies - but He loved His enemies - He loved them enough to tell them the Truth.

I. THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE - Matthew 21 12

II. THE VINDICATION OF THE LORD - Matthew 21 13-14

A. IN WORD - v 13 "It is written"

MALACHI 3:1

ISAIAH 56:7B

JEREMIAH 7:11

B. IN _____ - v 14

III. THE _____ OF THE CHILDREN – Matthew 21:15

IV. THE _____ OF THE PRIESTS – Matthew 21:15b-16a

V. THE _____ OF THE LORD – Matthew 21:16b-17

CONCLUSION