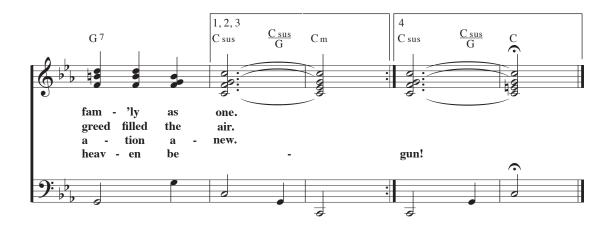
## **Cleanse Your Temple**

Psalm 69:7-9; Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:13-22; Ephesians 2:19-22; Revelation 21:1-4



WORDS: Ken Bible WHO MAY ABIDE 2
MUSIC: George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) and Ken Bible 11.8.11.8



TOPICS: CHRIST HYMNS 3, His Life; Holiness; Life of Christ; Tunes, Classical

LEAD-IN: Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple area and began to drive out those who were selling and buying on the temple grounds, and He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple grounds. And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

(Mark 11:15-17, NASB)

## LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## **Cleanse Your Temple**

Father,

You are our peace. You are our holiness. You are our security.

Your presence -

You Yourself, Lord, are all we need.

So in love, You have always longed to

join Yourself to Your people,

to live among us,

to be one with us.

In the garden,

in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night,

in the tabernacle,

You drew near us and

lived with us and eagerly provided our needs

in Yourself.

The temple was another chapter in that long and loving history.

You designed it to be a

house of prayer for all peoples,

a beautiful, peaceful, glorious place of worship.

But people took the court of the Gentiles –

the only place where the nations could come and worship You –

and turned it into a place of business.

They made it a noisy, smelly market

selling animals for sacrifice and exchanging coins for the temple tax.

Then Jesus came.

His heart was fully one with Yours, so He was

grieved and enraged

at the corruption of Your purpose.

Right there in Your own holy house,

greed was being worshiped,

not You.

He cleansed it,

though perhaps only for a brief time.

More importantly, He Himself became Your temple,

Your presence among us,

the Holy of Holies where heaven and earth meet.

And in Him,

as His Spirit fills His people, we are Your temple.

Father, finish what Jesus started.

Cleanse us

completely and

forever.

Make us holy,

a house of prayer,

a place devoted to Your service,

a pure and glorious home for You, our pure and glorious God.

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