

Zeal for your house has consumed me. Thus says your Lord. Zeal of a man overturning tables, whip in hand, scattering merchants. Woe to any who defile My Father's House. Woe to those who were conducting business in the Gentile courts, thus denying Gentiles a place of prayer; you've heard Isaiah declare, **My House shall be a house of prayer for all peoples.** The bridegroom will not stand idly by, while His Bride is being defiled. Does Moses not write your God is a **jealous God**? Anger that arises out of love, not hate. Love must act. Zeal all consuming. A love for My Father and for you that will not stop.

Zeal for My Father's house has consumed me. Where real blood is poured out for real sins. The place where God and man are reconciled. Where sin dealt with; forgiveness given. A place of faith in the promises of God.

Have things changed in My Father's House? The Old Covenant temple is no more, fulfilled in the New Covenant, a Temple, God in flesh before you. Has your God changed? My Father's House is still a place of holiness.

Have you not heard the Psalmist declare, **worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness**, the apostle write, **worship the Lord in reverence and awe.** Speak up if you think there is anything casual about sin, informal about holiness, about worship, about the gifts of My Father's House.

Zeal for your house has consumed me. Zeal over sins. You come into this place of holiness and defile it with your filth. Are your hearts less sinful, more pure, than those driven out from the Temple? Answer me. Boast if you dare. Are any of your thoughts and actions unknown?

Hear the litany of Commandments. You enter My Father's House with your idolatries, with your misuse, non-use of God's Name, with neglecting His Word and devotions? Look how you respect, honor those in authority; your care for the welfare of your neighbor; of your sexual purity? See your thefts, your concern for your neighbor's reputation, the contentment of your heart? The commandments reveal your sin, your need for a Temple. You can't get away from that. Sin means death, demands sacrifice, sacrifice demands a Temple. So where do you go?

Zeal for your house has consumed me. You go to My Father's House. You go where the Christ is, where His Word is, where His Body

and Blood is. Heed the call to gather where He has promised to come with His grace, gifts, with Himself.

Zeal for my Father's House has consumed me. Zeal for you. Zeal that will not keep you in your sins. Love, compassion of a God that will not let you go your own way; that gives the Law, the Ten Commandments. Love, compassion to reveal the stench of your sin, drive you to repentance, in order to cleanse in the One crucified.

Zeal. Is there any other God completely consumed with you; Answer me? Zeal over your forgiveness and reconciliation- a life forever with your God. Who cares about everything –every details of your life. Who cares about how you live, the things you do. Who cares when He sees you wandering. Who cares when He sees you hurting yourself in things that may seem harmless. Who cares so much.

You have heard it said, **We preach Christ crucified.** *Not* a God content to let you go our own ways, define your own truth, who winks at your indiscretions, who cuts you a little slack. **No.** One who cares. Who put His love into action, still does. For My Father could not stand idly by but acts upon you.

Zeal for My Father's House has consumed me. That you not take sin but lightly. Do not defile the holiness of My Father's House to scoff at His gifts poured out **We preach Christ crucified.** Flee from false preachers of a bloodless Christ, with mere spiritual talk, in a faith of minimums, watering down My doctrine.

Zeal for My Father's House. Be zealous for the Word and Sacraments. Or have you not heard, **Faith comes by hearing; hearing the Word of the Lord. The Word is the power of God unto salvation,** to baptismal wash, to justify through the cross, to absolve sins.

Zealous. Or have you not heard the very Word declaring, **This Is My body, This is My blood.** Zeal for the Table, climax of heavenly worship.

These are the means of My Father's restoring work in you, keeping you on the path of life and salvation.

Destroy this Temple, in three days I will raise it up. Destroyed on the cross, is raised. The flesh and blood Temple of Jesus still with you. Will always be. Love, compassion, jealous to care for His Bride, His Church. Still completely consumed by love for you. You are holy. Your sins forgiven. You belong in my Father's house.

Thus says the Lord, who hold you so dear.