

Growing in Zeal

*Never be lacking in Zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord -
Romans 12:11*

John 2:13-22 | Mark 11:15-18 - Jesus clears the temple courts

**Why did Jesus clear the temple courts (approx. 30 AD)?
What can we learn from Jesus' attitude towards the things of God?**

- God's house was being disrespected
- The religious people misused the temple of God
- It was no longer a house of prayer for all nations
- 'Money making' and commerce had taken centre stage
- His resurrection & new covenant would soon make it obsolete
- In AD70, temple worship was to come to a crashing end

**The prophet Malachi (approx. 430 BC) warns Israel of its many failings
How did the people lose their Zeal / Love for God?**

- 1:1-5 - Israel begins to doubt God's love
- 1:6-14 - Breaking the covenant / promise through blemished sacrifices
- 2:1-9 - The priests were causing the people to stumble
- 2:10-16 - Breaking the covenant of marriage / divorce
- 3:1-5 - Breaking the covenant through injustice towards each other
- 3:6-12 - Breaking the covenant through the withholding of tithes
- 3:13-15 - Speaking arrogantly towards God

Are we in danger of losing our Zeal / Love for God in Leicester in 2024?

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 - Things written down as a warning to us today

**How can we grow in Zeal / Love for God?
Matthew 7:7-8 - Take action with three Verbs:**

1. **"Ask"** God by cultivating a life of Prayer:
 - Luke 11:1-5 - Jesus teaches his disciples to pray
 - Prayer is speaking with God, the creator of all things
 - Luke 18:1-8 - Have persistence in prayer
 - PUSH: Pray until something happens
 - Jesus prayed with and for his friends
 - Repentance from sin that destroys our lives
 - Guilt hinders our prayer lives
 - Confess and ask for forgiveness from God
2. **"Seek"** God through his Word, the Bible:
 - Be good students of God's Word
 - God speaks to us through his Word / the Holy Spirit
 - Take note of the things that require your attention
 - James 1:22-25 - Don't only listen to the Word, do what it says
 - Change your life in light of God's Word
 - Be humble and remain teachable
 - Share with others what you have learnt
 - James 5:20 - Learn to help others to become Christians
3. **"Knock"** by Connecting with God's people, the local church:
 - Have courage and humility | Don't let fear and pride get in the way
 - Get involved in the life of the local church
 - John 4:23-24 - Spirit and truth | Cultivate a life of joy and worship
 - Be orderly in worship, and in the community
 - Contribute and invest to the life and work of the church
 - Nurture the health, unity and wellbeing of the brotherhood
 - Matthew 7:14 - We need companions on Heaven's road
 - Ephesians 3:19-22 - A holy temple where God himself dwells