

## God is Not a Religion! ( Matt. 21:1-22 )

The reason people can't recognize Jesus is because they have decided on their religion before they have met him.

The living and true God didn't make us for religion, he made us for himself.

*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and **for him**.* Col. 1:16

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to **become children of God**.*  
John 1:12

Why are you here today?

- A sign of submission
- Cultural/traditional preservation
- Customer of religion /preferred forms
- Curious/sceptical
- Political
- The “show”
- Personal agenda

Why is Jesus here today?

1. Jesus delivers the righteousness of God and salvation to the unrighteous; something religion cannot do (Matt. 21:4-11 ; see Zech. 9:9 ).

Religion outside in

Relationship inside out

A relationship with Jesus guarantees personal possession of the righteousness of God (Rom. 1:16-17; 3:22-27).

1. Jesus will cure the temple so healing can happen ; something religion cannot do (Matt. 21:12-17 ; see Is. 56:7; Jer. 7:11 ).

If the temple becomes *a place of religion* it will be a den for untruth and religious schemes about human power, position, and preference.

If the temple is *a place of Christ- worship* it will be a house of intimate relationship, truth, and connection to divine power.

1. Religion may be decorative and impressively ceremonial, but a relationship with Jesus enables people to be who God created them to be — something religion cannot do (Matt. 21:1f-22 ; see Is. 34:4; Jer. 8:13 ).

Religion amounts to nothing – “All show, no go!”

Relationship brings forth the purpose for which you were created (2 Cor. 5:5; Jn. 15:5,7-8) – to live a life of faithful fruitfulness in C h r i s t empowered by prayer.

God's way Say yes to God's will and trust in God's power.