

## “Do What is Right”

John 2:13-25

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

At Heralds of Hope we believe that true and lasting hope is found only in God, the Creator. He has revealed to us the Word of God, the Bible. It’s our privilege to come to you each week with a message based on God’s Holy Word, a message that reveals the truth of God to us.

One reason we have confidence in the Word of God is – the change it effects in the lives of those who accept it and live out its commands. In other words, God’s Word, empowered by His Holy Spirit, helps us to do what is right. On our own, we aren’t capable of doing that.

Maybe, like me, the Spirit of God through the Word of God showed you some sin in your life. And you tried to change your behavior through sheer willpower. You said, “I’ve made up my mind, I will never do that again.” Only to discover after a short time, you were engaging in that sinful behavior again. Willpower may work for a while, but soon we revert to the sinful patterns.

So, what is the secret to doing what is right? Would you like to know what it is? Well, I hope you can stay tuned because here now is Dr. Yoder with today’s teaching, “Do What is Right.”

It seems for many people right and wrong are simply expressions. Such persons have little to base their conclusions on. The decision of right and wrong is often made on the basis of whatever pleases them, so they do as they want to.

But the definition of right and wrong is far clearer. You see, the Bible sets forth the standards of right and wrong. That’s the reason this message is **DO WHAT IS RIGHT**.

But, as I say, for many people right and wrong are only convenient terms. The reason is they have never actually sought out the basic standards on which we can make proper judgments. Then, because men are depraved, they seek out and do wrong. By the word “depraved” we mean they do not think straight; they have no basis from which they can think straight. I’m glad the Bible sets forth the standards of right. The Scripture in **John 2: 13-25** helps us to understand how to do what is right.

- 13 *And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,*
- 14 *And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:*
- 15 *And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;*
- 16 *And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*
- 17 *And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.*
- 18 *Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?*
- 19 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*
- 20 *Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?*
- 21 *But he spake of the temple of his body.*
- 22 *When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.*
- 23 *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.*
- 24 *But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,*
- 25 *And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.*

From this experience in the life of Jesus I bring forth several COMMANDS that should point us to the right way.

### **The First Command is Clean Up.**

When Jesus came to the temple of God, that holy place where God had said He would put His name, He found it polluted. He found men selling oxen, sheep, and doves and changing money: there in the holy place, the place which had been set aside for the worship of God. It was the place

where God's presence had been evident, for in the days of Solomon's temple the glory of God had come down and filled the temple.

At this time Jesus found these people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and changing money. He commanded them, "Take these things from here." Jesus wanted His Father's House to be kept clean and fit for worship.

There is a consideration that we must look at in a cleanup program. Not only should we keep the houses of worship fit and clean but since the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us who are born again, we must keep our lives and bodies clean and pure. That means to do right.

### **A second command I bring to you: Speak Up.**

After this experience of cleaning up the temple the people who were affected by the program came and asked Jesus a proper question. They said, "What sign do you show us seeing that you are doing these things? How is it that you act so? You must have some kind of authority that you have done these things." For them, a sign or a miracle would be the proper proof.

Miracles had accompanied the prophets of old, such as Moses and Elijah. Their question was therefore a proper question. He gave them a puzzling answer. "Here is the sign," He said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." It was a puzzling answer. They immediately thought of the temple in which they stood. They said, "This temple has been in construction for forty-six years, yet you propose to raise it up in three days?"

Well, you see, this was a misunderstanding of His intention because we are informed here that instead of referring to the physical temple which Herod had built Jesus was referring to His body. He was making a prediction as to how He was going to be crucified, and how He would rise from the dead after three days. This became very clear to the disciples after His death and resurrection. Then they saw that His comment had to do with His body, not with the temple of stone where they stood.

I'd like to point out to you that the way Jesus spoke up would help you do right, because implied in His statement is the importance of belief. You must believe in Him even if you can't see sign or miracle.

### **The third command I point out to you is Open Up.**

Jesus was present there at the Passover feast for the Jewish people. It is a time of commemorating their deliverance from the land of Egypt under the hand of Moses many, many years before. Jesus was there in the city of Jerusalem observing this memorial feast of deliverance. Many who saw Him and saw the miracles that He performed believed in Him. The miracles opened up their faith in Him.

Then we note that Jesus knew all men. In other words, even those who tried to hide from Him couldn't really because Jesus knows all men. It was not necessary that anybody should testify to Him of man for He knew what was in man. There was nothing to hide.

Some still try to hide from Jesus but that is impossible. When He was here, He knew all men. Surely now, after His resurrection, He would have knowledge of everybody. He has knowledge of you. You may try to hide but you can't really. It is important to understand that He knows who you are and where you are. Doesn't that help you do right?

Do what is right. But you ask me, "How shall I do that?" Well, first clean up; He will do it like He cleaned up the temple. He will clean you up. Then speak up; let Him tell you what He wants you to know. And open up; He knows you anyway. Now that's quite simple: clean up, speak up and open up. Then you'll be able to do what is right.

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for teaching us from this portion of Holy Scripture. It wasn't a pleasant scene was it my friend? Jesus was confrontational! He confronted those religious leaders with the error of their ways. He criticized them sharply for transforming His house of prayer into a den of thieves. Not exactly the way to win friends, was it?

But Jesus was concerned that these men by their actions were preventing the common people from meeting God in their place of worship. Today, you and I don't need to go to a temple or a mosque or any other special building to worship God. We can worship God alone, as a family, or as a group of God's children meeting under a tree or in someone's home.

We don't need to bring money or an animal sacrifice to worship. No, Jesus said that His Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. So, let me urge you to do that today. You will not be disappointed!

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching by Dr. Yoder? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "Do What is Right."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That email address again is, [m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Do What is Right.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in John’s Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.