

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS
A HOUSE OF PRAYER

Isaiah 56 and Matthew 21:12-17

1. Isaiah 56 was a pre-exilic message to Israel (prior to them being exiled to Babylon), written over 600 years B.C. What disturbing trend did Isaiah see regarding the leader's handling of potential God-fearing proselytes (converts to Judaism)? (v3) How were the 'foreigners' and 'eunuchs' made to feel? How should they have been received and on what condition? (Exodus 12:48)

2. Describe the spiritual condition of the leaders in Isaiah's day (v10-12). What does it mean that they were 'blind, ignorant, dogs that couldn't bark, greedy, and looking to their own ways'? Discuss.

3. What was God's clear message through Isaiah regarding the purpose of the temple? (v7)

4. How do these matters in the above questions parallel the situation when Jesus entered the temple? (Matthew 21:12-13) What were the people doing, or not doing, that disturbed Jesus? What court did Jesus enter? What should have been its purpose?

5. What parallels can you find between Isaiah's day, Jesus' day, and today's church? Discuss.

6. What is the primary purpose of the church (v13) and what does this actually mean? (1 Corinthians 3:16) (Ephesians 2:21-22)

7. Name some of the promises given to us and the benefits we receive from personal prayer? (Philippians 4:6-7) (Luke 11:9-13) (Mark 11:23-24) (Acts 10:1-4, 9-11) (John 15:7,11,16)

8. What are the benefits of corporate prayer? (Acts 2:1-4) (Acts 3:1-8) (Acts 4:23-31) (Acts 12:5-11) (Acts 13:1-3)