

## **Dr. Anne Livingston**

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"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple...And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them...the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching..." (Matthew 21:12, 14, 23)

In the last week of His ministry, our Lord came to the temple and cleansed it, healed people, taught with authority and confronted the religious leadership. He acted as though He was the master there—which He was. The problem for many was that He was not the Messiah they expected, and they could not, or would not, accept the one God sent.

Recently, a 71-year-old man came with severe back pain and a nasty sore throat for at least the past ten days. He had gone to another clinic a week earlier, but there was no improvement. Oh, by the way, he had stepped on a nail three weeks earlier, but the spot had healed. I put my hand on his neck to check for lymph nodes and found the muscles were rigid. The man had tetanus. I explained the seriousness of his problem and the need for immediate treatment. I was also concerned about his spiritual condition, since tetanus at this age can have a poor outcome. I asked him about his relationship with God through Jesus. He smiled (and his son smiled hugely!), and said he had put his faith in Christ, but he had not been a Christian a long time. Our Lord had come to this man, and he had finally welcomed Jesus as his Savior. The man is slowly recovering, but it will be several weeks before we know the final outcome.

Last week, I saw a 75-year-old man who was short of breath, with swollen ankles and needing two pillows at night. Congestive heart failure is serious business; so is spiritual heart failure. He and his wife thought everyone would make it to heaven somehow. When asked how he would deal with his sin debt, he was not concerned. I gave an example—What if he owed millions of dollars and a relative from the US offered to pay the debt for him? He would not accept. Not even if that meant going to prison for the rest of his life? Nope, no one was going to pay his debts for him. He talked as if he had not done anything that required repentance and forgiveness. He thought God would accept him, no matter what he had done.

My plans are to return to the US on **September 26**, our Lord willing. The schedule is filling up with opportunities to report to churches and visit friends who are supporters. My first project with be to update the presentation, a job that is easier (but not easy!) thanks to a good software program.

**Praise** There has been some progress on getting projects done, although that is happening more slowly than I had hoped. There is still time to get some things done before my departure.

We have been able to see many patients, even though the heat has been draining. Some days have been very long because of complicated problems or delays in treatment.

**Projects** The property looked great at the end of July! And then we had a lot of rain, and I got to see how fast everything can grow in hot, humid weather. While I am in the US, I will be looking at possibilities for equipment to take care of the property.

**Prayer** Many of our patients are older or have serious illnesses, and they are not ready for eternity. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will convict of sin and righteousness and judgment as these people hear the Word of God.

We often criticize the religious leaders of our Lord's day for not listening to Him. But how do I react when my Savior points out sin in my life, or shows me an area that needs His healing? Do I receive His instruction in humility and obedience? How do I respond when He comes into my day and changes my plans? May we all have the grace to let our Master do as he will in our lives that His work may be accomplished in us and in those around us for the glory of God.

In our Lord's service,

Dr. anne