



Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

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TEXT: MATTHEW 21:1-17

TITLE: JESUS NEVER RAN FROM A GOOD FIGHT: PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

- A. Reverend Vernon Johns _____
1. “Too much economic activity”
 2. “Social bluntness”
 3. “Too militant”
 4. “Johns used to rock the complacency of the middle-class, refined members at Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church – in whatever way he could.”
- B. Succeeded by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. _____
- C. King said of Johns in his book *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, “Vernon Johns was a brilliant preacher with a creative mind and an incredibly retentive memory. A fearless man, he never allowed an injustice to come to his attention without speaking out against it. When he was still pastor, hardly a Sunday passed that he did not lash out against complacency. He often chided the congregation for sitting up so proudly with their many academic degrees, and yet lacking the very thing the degrees should confer, that is, self- respect. One of his basic theses was that any individual who submitted willingly to injustice did not really deserve more justice.”

JESUS SPENT MUCH OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY FIGHTING FOR THE MINISTRY

- A. Jesus fought with the religious leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, High Priests) _____
- B. Jesus fought with his family – “Jesus has lost his mind.” _____
- C. Jesus fought with a fig tree – “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” _____
- D. Jesus fought with his disciples – “...you will find a donkey and her colt. Untie them and bring them to me.” _____
- E. Should the emphasis be on fighting or the reason for the fight? _____
- F. When was the last time you had a good fight for your ministry? _____

JESUS PICKED THE FIGHT WITH THE MERCHANTS IN THE TEMPLE

- A. Jesus is riding high on a cloud from the triumphal entry _____
- B. Why could not Jesus just let it go? Jesus could not. _____
- C. Jesus entered the temple _____
1. He drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple
 2. He overturned the tables of the money changers
 3. He overturned the seats of those who sold doves
- D. Jesus, “My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.” _____
- E. Then, an environment was created for _____
1. The blind and the lame to come to Him in the temple to be healed
 2. The children to cry out in the temple and say, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”
- F. May we pick a fight to create an environment for liberation to happen _____