

Zeal for your house consumes me

Message 2: [Under your wings series](#)

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Introduction

One of my daughter thinks I am “the extreme” when it comes to Jesus stuff so knowing this she came to me and asked me if I had seen a photo of Music Star Lil Nas X... I said “no” and then she showed me this photo:



I broke down and cried – right there in front of her. She was so stunned she went silent. She later told me, she was so scared because she couldn't believe I had reacted that way. She thought I would probably just go on one of my usual statements of "Lord Jesus come, Maranatha!" My reaction was extreme!

I was surprised myself because the Spirit of the Lord came upon me as soon as I saw the photo and I grieved and cried and with a deep sadness... I remember I kept whispering while crying: "He is mocking the son of God, oh my God, oh my God, forgive him..."

But what does my extreme reaction have to do with "Zeal for your house consumes me" which is the subject of this message?

About me and the oracles of the Lord

In 2017, while I was still a sinner – living a hedonistic life, partying like a rock star, perhaps like Lil Nas X, I had a radical encounter with the Lord Jesus. After my encounter, I repented of my many many sins and I committed the rest of my life to serving Jesus, the son of God who had died for me on the cross, so I could have a second chance of living a meaningful life of purpose. I then got baptized shortly after that. Over the years, the Lord has given me a passion for him and last year he called me to preach a series of 12 messages called "*Under your wings*" and this message is the second of those series.

Anchor verse

To understand zeal, here is a critical story of Jesus getting really angry in the temple:

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." John 2: 13 – 17 (NIV).

Zeal comes from the Greek word *zelos* (dzay'-los) which means eagerness, enthusiasm, jealousy, rivalry.

The root (zē-, "zeal") literally means "**hot enough to boil.**" It is metaphorically used of "burning anger, love, zeal" (A-S) – i.e. to burn (in spirit). It can refer to "boiling anger, love, zeal, for what is good or bad" (J. Thayer).]

Christian Are you hot with zeal?

In my case with the Lil Nas X picture - my burning love for Jesus caused me to break down and weep over the blasphemy – it was like a knife was piercing my heart, seeing how someone could abuse and reject the ONLY one who can save his soul.

In the case of Jesus, his passion for the house of the Lord his God caused his love to boil over out of his heart and result into righteous anger such that he chased out those who were misusing God's house. It was supposed to be a place for prayer – not a den of thieves.

Are you hot for the Lord?

It is impossible to be hot for someone you don't care about and many Christians are not zealous simply because they don't care enough about God's business.

It is impossible to be zealous for something you don't know. Many Christians are not zealous because they don't spend enough time in God's word and so they don't understand his heart and his ways.

It is impossible to be zealous for something if you feel it is not valuable and you have nothing to lose.

If I lose Jesus, I lose everything and that is why I am zealous. Why do I say this?

No one was there when I was wallowing in my sin – like a dog going back to it's vomit. Only God came and saw me and took pity on me and cleaned me up.

No one was there when for 20 years, I claimed I loved God but the very next night I was in the club gyrating to all sorts of songs and then semi drunk telling a cocktail waitress: "How are you doing".

Only Jesus was there, he took pity on me who was rolling about in my own filth – he took me into his Father's house and gave me a white garment and I became an adopted son.

I am hot because I have no where else to go – I cannot go back to my past life. How about you?

I am hot because I am forever grateful for what God did for me. How about you?

I am hot because Jesus is the ONLY way to receive eternal life. How about you?

Are you hot for the Lord or are you cold? The Bible gives us examples to show the risk of being cold.

King David

King David was so hot for God, he danced without concern but his wife instead despised him. The scriptures record what happened to her:

As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. 2 Samuel 6: 16 (NIV).

Michal confronted David about his zeal. She mocked him – as many of us do when we see people being zealous for God. This is what happened:

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor."

And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death. 2 Samuel 6: 20 – 23 (NIV).

Are you hot for God? If you mock those who don't care to show their love for God, you could fall into God's wrath and judgment.

Paul

Paul was hot for his God and inspired by the Spirit he said:

But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. Galatians 4: 18 (NIV).

Are you hot for God whether you are alone or with other Christians? If you are not, you are missing a good thing.

Jesus

Jesus wants Christians who are hot and not cold and he warned one of the churches:

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. Rev 3: 15-16 (NIV).

Are you hot for God? If you are not, you risk him spitting you out of his place of protection.

The Message of Jesus to you

If you think about it, there is no “coolness” in creation about God. Everyone in heaven is passionate about God! The heavenly creatures never stop crying, Holy, Holy, Holy!

Even all creation praises the Lord DAY AFTER DAY:

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above[a] proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. Psalm 19: 1- 2(ESV).

If the angels and all creation is passionate about God, how about you?

God loves people who are hot and on fire for him. Phinehas the priest was zealous for God's honour and it was credited to him as righteousness and after the Lord entered into an everlasting covenant with him (Numbers 25: 10-12, Psalms 106: 30-31).

If you want God to credit righteousness to you like he did Phinehas, if you want him to enter into an everlasting covenant with you like he did David, if you want God to show you favour like he has done for me his servant, then be zealous.

On the OTHER HAND, If you are not zealous, you are in trouble – God can spit you out of his mouth or he can pass judgment on you if you despise those who show zeal.

Which would you prefer? To be hot or cold?

It is my prayer that Zeal for God's house will consume you, as it did our Lord. This is the same Lord Jesus who is calling you to serve him. Do you want to safely hide under God's protection – under his wings instead of facing his wrath? If so, pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lord Jesus, come – Maranatha!

