

Of Dens and Robbers

Mark 11: 15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

Mark 11: 17 And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a **den of robbers.**” 18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him,

Mark 11: because all the crowd was
astonished at his teaching. 19 And when
evening came they went out of the city.

John 2: 15 So he made a whip out of cords,
and drove all from the temple courts... 17
His disciples remembered that it is written:
“Zeal for your house will **consume me.**”

Get angry
at what angers Jesus.

Sometimes Christians need
to get angry.

Get angry at

(1). People who steal from God's house by leaving something behind.

Jeremiah 7: 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord. 3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds,

Jeremiah 7: and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.' 5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner,

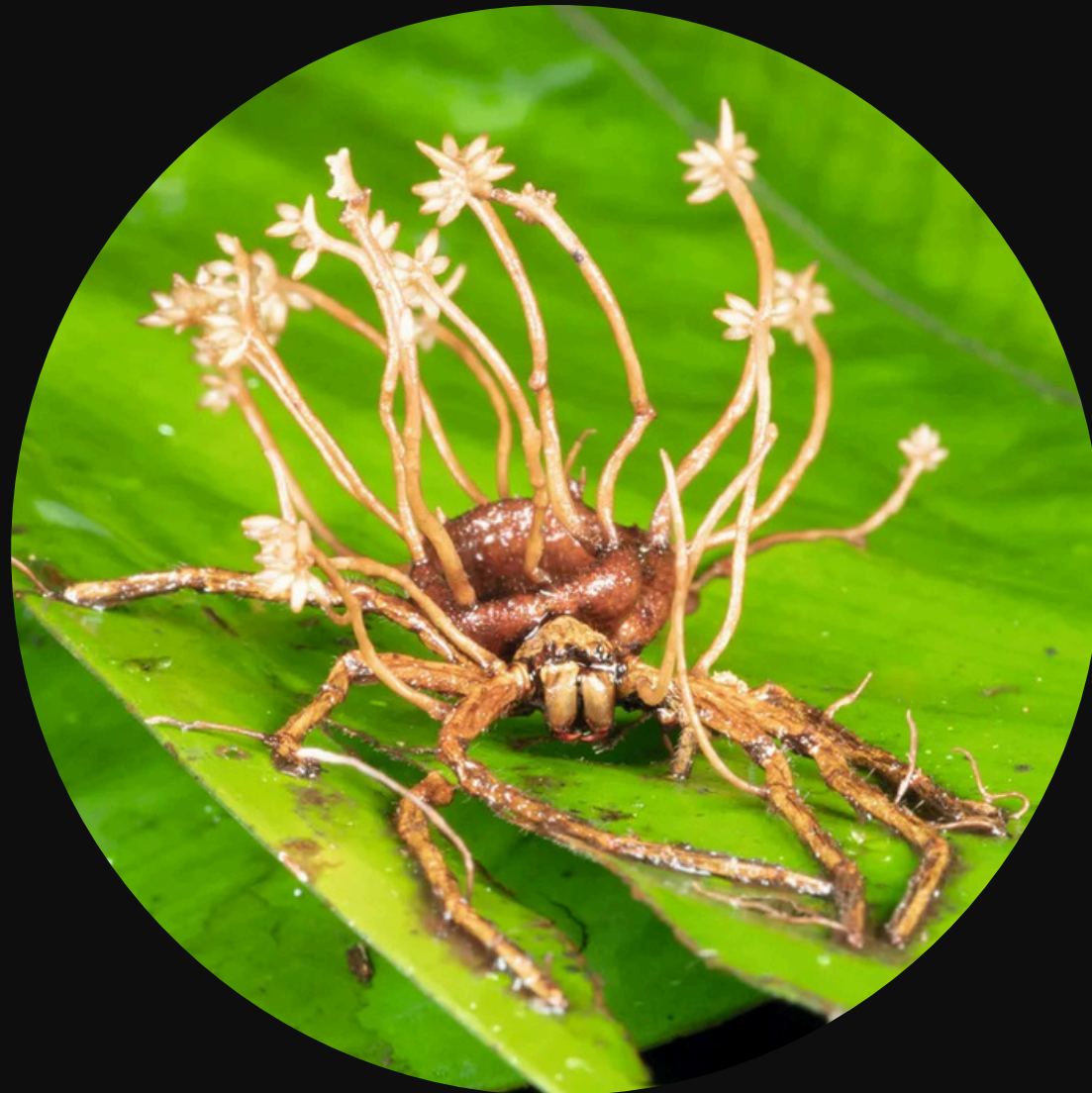
Jeremiah 7: the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. 8 “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery,

Jeremiah 7: swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?

Jeremiah 7: 11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord.

In Jeremiah 7, the Israelites made
the House of God a hideout for
worldliness.

The “Zombie Fungus”



God's house becomes a hideout
for worldliness when
it absorbs darkness instead of
releasing light.



The Israelites in Jeremiah stole

God's identity.

Exodus 20: 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain...

Jeremiah 7: 11 Has this house, which is called by **my name** become a den of robbers to you?

The Israelites in Jeremiah stole

the Temple's purpose.

The Temple's purpose was to foster a relationship with God.

To them, the Temple was a means to remake God in their image.

It wasn't only what they stole

but where they kept the bounty.

Get angry at

(2). Leaders who do not make
prayer the standard in the church.

Isaiah 56: 7 These I will bring to my holy
mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Isaiah 56: 10 Israel's watchmen are blind,
they all lack knowledge;
they are all mute dogs,
they cannot bark;
they lie around and dream,
they love to sleep.
11 They are shepherds who lack
understanding; they all turn to their own way,

Get angry at

(3). People/leaders who promote
“for all Christians” instead of “for
all nations”.

Isaiah 56: 6 And foreigners who bind
themselves to the Lord to minister to him,
to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants...
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Isaiah 56: Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

Our worship is for
the committed AND the curious.

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