

## October 4 Answers

- 1) The temple courts were crowded with thousands of visitors during the Passover, and the religious leaders allowed money changers (the temple tax had to be paid in silver **Tyrian** coins) and merchants (many people could not bring their own **animals**) to set up shop in the Court of the Gentiles. Eventually the court was so full of merchants that the Gentiles found it difficult to worship and pray. No wonder Jesus was angry! The Spirit **led** him to forcibly clear the temple court, but the fact that the Romans did not intervene shows that he did not start a **riot**. He was firm and forceful, but he was not cruel or hateful or out of **control**. This teaches us that if we have zeal for God's house, we will not remain **silent** when others pervert its purpose. Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus teaches us several important truths about God's Kingdom: (a) it is proclaimed by the **prophets** (cf. Ezek 11:19–20; 18:30–31; 36:25–27), (b) it is entered by spiritual **rebirth**, not physical descent, (c) its citizens **believe** in the Son of God and **practice** the truth, and (d) it is present now in the **hearts** of those who are born of the Spirit. Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman teaches us a lot about witnessing: (1) Jesus followed the leadership of the Spirit and **initiated** contact (she would have ignored him), (2) he didn't allow his **weariness** to keep him from talking to her, (3) he used the **physical** setting (well water) as a stepping stone to present spiritual truth (living water), (4) he appealed to her **curiosity** and focused on her need at the same time, (5) he didn't argue with her about their ethnic and **theological** differences, (6) he presented her with the good news of the **gospel**, (7) he spoke candidly to her about her spiritual **condition**, (8) he explained the spiritual **unity** that exists between those who worship in the Spirit, (9) he didn't allow her to **procrastinate**, (10) he didn't let his **disciples** keep him from witnessing, and (11) he didn't mind that his **plans** were changed, for he stayed and ministered in Samaria.