

“Jesus our System Restore Tool”

John 2:13-25

If you are familiar with computers, you know what the “System Restore Tool” is.

The System Restore tool in Microsoft Windows Operating System is one of the most helpful utilities available and is usually a great first step when you're trying to fix a major problem with your computer.

In a nutshell, what the Windows System Restore tool lets you do is revert to a previous software, registry, and driver configuration called a **restore point**. It's like "undoing" the last major change to Windows, taking your computer back to the way it was when the restore point was created.

How does it work? Suppose you suffer a system crash on your computer this Sunday. You're not a computer expert, and you don't know how to recover the last two weeks of financial information you entered last Friday, your wife's favourite recipe she started writing last Wednesday or your favorite game.

All you have to do is select "system restore" and specify the date to which you want your machine reset. In this case just to be safe, would be yesterday, Saturday. Bingo! Problem solved. All the things you somehow messed up are put back in their configuration like if nothing happened.

We are now in the middle of our Lenten journey and here we are hearing of an event in Jesus's life that we normally place it and hear about it at the end of Jesus' ministry not at the beginning as it is presented by John in his Gospel read this morning.

This event is called “The cleansing of the Temple” I think that in light of this sermon, the perfect title for this event should be “The restoration of the Temple” The day the Lord Jesus walked into the Temple and saw what the Temple in Jerusalem had been turned into, it had become a Marketplace.

What he did next was as if he wanted to use a System Restore Tool to reset the real purpose of the house God. The Gospel says that In the temple Jesus found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their

tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

That day the Lord Jesus would have wished to have a reset point or date like computers have to bring back the integrity, sanctity and sacredness of his Father's House, but that was not possible, the whole system of the Temple in Jerusalem had already crashed, and it was beyond repair. It wasn't serving God's purposes anymore.

The Temple was the most important place of worship for God's people, the place where people were taught to worship God alone as the First Commandment says but the "Money Idol" had displaced God and turned the Temple into a marketplace.

To bring the Temple back, there had to be a system restore feature not on the building but on the minds and hearts of those who were at the top, of those who ran the Temple's day-to-day ministry, the Sanhedrin or Temple Council comprised by the Chief Priest and Pharisees, Sadducees and Elders, Seventy-One in total. They were the ones who had to restore, to redirect, to reset the true service to God, not to themselves as they were doing.

For us humans there is not a reset point or date to undo what makes our life crash, there is not a system restore feature in us that would take us back in time to fix the mess we made for ourselves and for others, but there is one thing that we can do, that is to let God into our hearts, and should be our choice, our decision and desire to walk with God to bring us back and recover from that crash.

As we know from the Scriptures the Lord Jesus tried to walk with those powerful people at the Temple, he tried to help them see God's ways, he met with them, had dinners with them, taught the Good News to them, Jesus told them He was the Son of God but their ears and hearts were closed and when the ears and hearts are closed to God, there is not and won't be a reset point, a reset date.

How many of us wish now to have that restore feature in our hands so that we would make things right again?

How many of us would wish to take back the hurtful words we said that terminated a beautiful relationship we had with a friend or a family member?

How many of us would like to have a reset button that could take us back to the time when we made the wrong choice that caused us so much pain, guilt and messed up our lives?

Unfortunately, there is not such a thing, we don't have the restore system feature that computers have, but we have the Lord Jesus with us, we have his forgiveness, his grace and love. And this is all we need to find peace, reconciliation and a new beginning, the Lord Jesus is our restore system, only he can fix what we cannot.

J.S. Baxter said:

"What God chooses, He cleanses. What God cleanses, He molds. What God molds, He fills. What God fills, He uses"

You and I have been chosen to be God's beloved children, let's open our hearts and our minds to let God fix the things we cannot fix, let God change our story and leave behind the story of a person with guilt, bitterness, resentment and all the things that mess up our spirit, the very essence of who we are as people.

The Spirit of the Lord wants to cleanse his Temple in you and me, through his grace and mercy he can reset our lives and turn us into a living Temple of peace, joy and service to Him.

It is impossible not to remember the day when things crashed for you and for me, we would give anything we own to restore things to the way they were.

God won't erase all the consequences of our actions, but he promises things far better: to forgive us, to work for the highest good even through what is bad, and one day to make all things new.

What Microsoft calls "system restore" God calls redemption, let's not deny ourselves God's works of redemption, let's walk with him and open our ears, minds and hearts to his voice, words, and love. Amen.