

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 177: THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE
JOHN 2:13-22

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. There in the Temple area He saw men selling cattle, sheep, and doves. He saw others sitting at tables, exchanging and trading people's money

In the temple courts, merchants would sell animals to people who had traveled a long distance. These travelers had no choice but to purchase these animals at a high price. Money corrupted these merchants, and the temple courts became a place where money was worshipped more than God. The people were not only forced to buy sacrificial animals at ridiculous prices; they were also forced to pay certain, very high, temple dues or taxes. The merchants were taking advantage of all the people who truly wanted to worship God. This was wrong; it was evil. They had turned God's house into a terrible common marketplace. The temple also had its own special money. And in order for the people to purchase the animal sacrifices, they had to "exchange" their money for temple money. The moneychangers were not fair when they exchanged money for the people. They kept back some of the money for themselves. This was leaving a very bad impression on those who just wanted to worship the Lord. These things displeased the Lord greatly.

When He saw this, Jesus made a whip with some pieces of rope. Then He forced all these men and the sheep and cattle to leave the Temple area. He turned over the tables of the money changers and poured out their money. Then He said to those who were selling doves, "Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place for buying and selling!" When this happened, His followers remembered what was written in the Scriptures: "My zeal (which means strong feelings) for your house (or temple) has eaten me up." Some Jews said to Jesus, "Show us a miracle as a sign from God. Prove that you have the right to do these things." Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and I will build it again in three days." They answered, "People worked 46 years to build this Temple! Do you really believe you can build it again in three days?" But the temple Jesus meant and was talking about was his own body. After He was raised from death, His followers remembered that He had said this. So they believed the Scriptures, and they believed the words Jesus said.

177. THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE (JOHN 2:13-22)



“Jesus cleanses the temple.” JOHN 2:13-22

177. THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

JOHN 2:13-22

MEMORY VERSE:

"Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'" JOHN 2:17

Review Questions

True or False

1. It was almost time for the Jewish birthday party, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.
2. He found in the Temple area men who were selling cows, sheep and doves, and those who were exchanging the peoples' money.
3. Jesus made a whip out of some rope when He saw them.
4. Jesus was happy that all the people were there in the Temple selling cows, sheep and doves, and exchanging the peoples' money.
5. Jesus took the whip and forced all the people out of the Temple area.

Questions

1. What did Jesus make when He saw all the people selling animals and changing the peoples' money in the Temple area?
2. What did he do with the whip?
3. What did he do to the money changers' tables and their money?
4. What did he tell the men who were selling doves? Did He tell them "Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a house of buying and selling!"?
5. What did the people ask Him to do?
6. What did Jesus answer them when they asked him to do a miracle or sign?
7. Did the disciples believe the Scriptures and the things Jesus said after He was raised up from the dead?

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Lesson 177 Activity

Skit: The Merchants of Menace

Choose your aide or a couple of children to play the part of worshippers going to the Temple (you can use the rest of the class as the other Jews in the Temple). Play the part of the merchant yourself.

Have another child play Jesus.

Use a couple of pre-prepared props, like a stuffed animal or paper cut-out bird, to represent a dove and a couple of pieces of green paper cut-out to look like a twenty dollar bill and a ten dollar bill. (you can use real bills if they are available) and maybe some red money cut out to represent a Roman twenty dollar bill.

Present the skit like this:

Worshipper (to Merchant): "Hi. I want to worship the Lord in the Temple today. I brought this little dove as my sacrifice to God. May I come in and worship?"

Merchant: "Well...that dove doesn't look very good, and it HAS to be perfect. You need to buy one from me." (Takes the dove from the worshipper, turns around and pretends to put it somewhere else, turns back around and presents the same dove to the worshipper; let the children see that it is the same dove by snickering at them or winking to let them in on the "scam.") "Here, this one is better. That will be \$20."

Worshipper: "\$20? But that's all I have, and I need it to buy food for my family while we're here in Jerusalem."

Merchant: "Well, you'll have to pay it if you want a worthy sacrifice."

Worshipper: "Well...OK, if it's the only way..."(goes away sad)

Have another child play the part of another worshipper, coming up to the table.

Worshipper: "Hi. I want to worship the Lord in the Temple today, but all I have is my Roman money."

Merchant: "Well, Roman money isn't worth what it used to be worth any more. I'll give you \$10.00 for your \$20.00 of Roman money."

Worshipper: "But, I won't have enough money to feed my family, and we've traveled so far!"

Merchant: "Well, that's not my problem. You need Temple money to use in the Temple, and this is the only place to get it. So it looks like you won't get to buy your animals for the sacrifices this year."

Worshipper: (looks sad) "Okay. I guess I have no other choice."

Have Jesus come in, pretend to make a rope whip, and wave it in the direction of the merchant. If you have a couple of bowls on the table, have the child knock the empty bowls onto the floor.

Jesus: Get this stuff out of here! Don't make my Father's house a terrible marketplace!"

(merchant gets scared & leaves the area).

Have the other children play the other Jews in the Temple, and have them ask Him for some kind of sign or miracle to prove He is the Messiah.

(Show us a sign! Show us a miracle! Do a miracle, Jesus!)

Jesus: "If you tear down this Temple, I will build it again in three days!"