

Jesus Clears the Temple

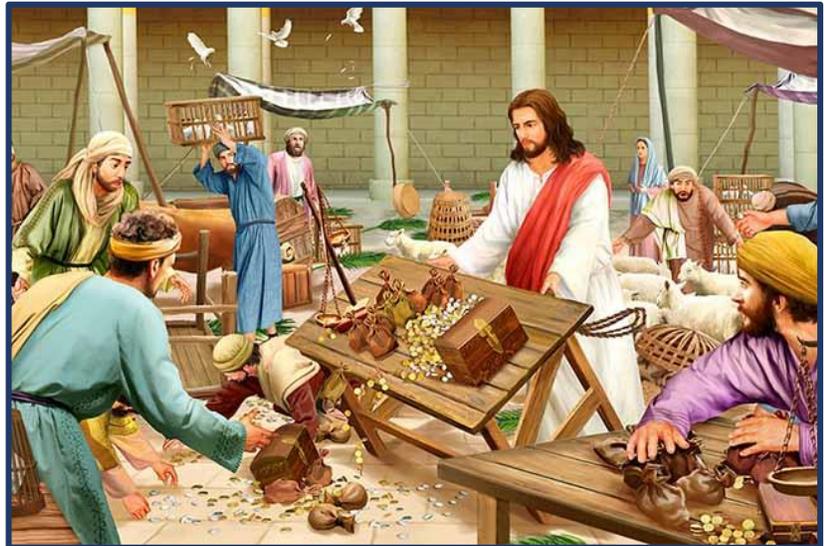


While Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem for the Passover festival, Jesus continued to teach to the people. One day He went to the temple and He became very angry with what He saw.

Read this story in Mark 11:15-19.

And Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "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." And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

Jesus worshipped God in the temple somewhat like we worship God in the church building. When He went to the temple; however, He saw things He did not like. There were men selling animals and charging to trade money right inside the temple grounds. Jesus was very angry and turned over the tables and forced the merchants out. He believed the merchants didn't belong there because the temple was a place of worship, not a marketplace for men to make money. It was a holy place for meeting and serving God, and God was displeased with the commonness of the selling.



The religious leaders, the chief priest and scribes, were jealous and afraid of Jesus because He had become so popular with the people and because His teachings went against many of their beliefs and practices. They began to plot a way to kill Jesus so that they could be rid of Him. And it was one of Jesus' own disciples, Judas Iscariot, that agreed to deliver Jesus to them in exchange for only thirty pieces of silver.