



MONDAY  
- CLEANSING THE TEMPLE -

After the events of Sunday, everyone was uncertain what Jesus' next step would be. Would He lead an uprising against the Roman governor Pilate? Would He claim the throne away from Herod? What Jesus did next came as a surprise to many, He went to the temple courtyard and cleared out the corrupt money changers and animal sellers. This has always been one of my favorite moments of Jesus - it demonstrates His strength and tenacity. Jesus is a tough man who is filled with righteous anger to defend the holiness of God's temple.

People must have been confused, it was just hours ago that Jesus came into the city about to be their next king. This was the guy who was supposed to overthrow the Romans, not heavy tables. His actions struck right at the heart of the religious leaders because Jesus had disrupted how they received extra money and the added controls they had placed on people. He freed the poor people from the corrupt practices that had preyed on them.

**Read: Mark 11:15-18 & Luke 19:45-48**

**As you read these passages, how do you see Jesus' physical and spiritual strength?**



This moment signals Jesus' purpose for coming. He did not go attack the Roman Governor's house or Herod's Palace. He went and cleared out the Jewish Temple. Jesus had not come as the conquering king but as a suffering servant. Jesus had come for a spiritual purpose.

In our own lives, we often confuse this purpose as well. We look to Jesus solely for physical and immediate things, all the while His ultimate purpose is spiritual and eternal. Jesus came to save us from our sins and restore us back to a relationship with our creator.

**What physical and immediate demands have you put on Jesus? What tables have you placed in the temple of your heart that blocks you from a true relationship with Jesus?**

**Take a moment to write those down, confess them to God, and ask the Holy Spirit to have Jesus clear them out.**

These things are cleared out by a greater desire for Jesus, a relationship with him as savior. Pastor John Piper described it this way, "Christianity, what Jesus demands from us, is not most deeply and most fundamentally decisions of the will. That comes later. Deeply and most fundamentally Christianity is a new birth — a deep, profound transformation of what we treasure, what we love."

**Ask yourself, what or who do I treasure and love most deeply?**

Maybe you have realized that the Temple Complex plays a major role in the events of Holy Week. If you'd like to learn more about the Temple I would recommend that you read this helpful article.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/what-did-the-temple-look-like-in-jesus-time/>

