



Jesus Cleanses the Temple Mk 11:15–19

March 10

OVERVIEW: [Mark](#)

CONTEXT: Jesus has finally come to Jerusalem. Here He will stay and teach until His arrest. In Jerusalem, one of His first encounters caused quite the stir! Seen by most evangelical scholars as a separate cleansing to the one in Jn 2, this event is recorded in Mt 21 and Lk 19 (and so occurred both at the beginning and end of His ministry). Tonight we'll consider what it is all about.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 10:35–45)

- What was happening in the hearts of Jesus' disciples?
- What sort of Kingdom were they thinking Jesus would establish?
- What type of leadership would exist in Jesus' Kingdom?
- V. 45- How did Jesus serve and what did it accomplish for those who believe?

READ: Mk 11:15–19

QUESTIONS:

1. *The Temple was where God was worshipped under the Old Covenant. It was where sacrifices were made for sin (pointing to Christ). As the place where the presence of God rested it was also a place of prayer. Herod the Great had significantly enhanced Zerubbabel's temple. The result was one of the most impressive structures in the ancient world.*
2. V. 15- How does this fulfil Malachi 3:1?
3. *What were money changers and pigeon merchants doing in the Temple courts? Because of the diaspora (Jews who were still dispersed as a result of the Exile) and Gentile worshippers, people came from far away. Ex 30:11–16 required they pay the Temple tax with a shekel and so they needed to convert their foreign currencies into the Temple currency. Similarly, such pilgrims wouldn't be able to bring an animal for sacrifice as locals could and so they would naturally buy them. These practices led to the commercialization of the Temple.*

4. What do you normally think of when you think of Jesus? Does this story conform to that image? (e.g. "driving out").
5. **Do you think contemporary Christians are too zealous for important matters or cold and indifferent? (Ro 12:9 & 11). Are there issues (e.g. theological/moral) you believe we ought to be passionate about, or to have a righteous indignation?**
6. Are there any religious industries today that Jesus might condemn?
7. **After the episode Jesus quotes Isa 56:7 as the basis of His teaching:**
 1. "House of prayer"
 - i. How is prayer to be central in worship? What is it a sign of if it is not an emphasis?
 2. "For all nations"
 - i. *The religious commercialism would have taken place in the court of Gentiles (where non-Jews could worship) thus distracting and hampering their worship.*
 - ii. How is making worship accessible important?
 3. "Den of robbers"
 - i. Hindrance of worship is equated to a den of robbers. What is meant by that image?
8. **How does this passage relate to the following:**
 1. The purity of Christian worship
 2. The use of Christian buildings
 - i. Baptists don't consecrate things, including buildings, so that they become uniquely holy. We've met in barns and houses and outdoor spaces to worship. So a thought to consider: are there activities that you'd feel were off bounds in a church building? Discuss why/why not?
 3. Worldly influences
 4. Other?
9. **Why did the religious leaders seek to, not just kill, but destroy Jesus as a result of this encounter?**

NEXT TIME: March 17, Mt 23—the 7 Woes!