

Gospel of Matthew “Cleansing the Temple”
Matthew 21:12-17
January 14, 2023

Matthew 21:12-17

12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13 He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, 16 and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,
“‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise’?”

17 And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

The Temple.

Why sacrifices?

The temple added an entire business around the sacrificial system.

Isaiah 56:6-7 NIV

6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Convenience had taken the place of real communion.

Jeremiah 7:9-11

9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations? 11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?

Jesus is greater.

John 2:19-20

19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
20 The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”

Matthew 21:14

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

The blind and lame came to Jesus and were healed, based upon the sacrifice that Jesus was making.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) How has convenience become a cultural value?
- 3.) Our passage indicates that the convenience of buying and selling sacrifices had compromised temple worship. When is our appreciation for convenience a detriment to our faith?
- 4.) How can we avoid “drive thru” Christianity?
- 5.) Jesus stops all the activity in temple, why? What was missing?
- 6.) How does Jesus set himself up as the better place of exchange and sacrifice?
- 7.) A sign that you have encountered Jesus is that he re-orders and rearranges things. What has Jesus been adjusting in your life lately?
- 8.) How can your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?