

The Cleansing of the Temple John 2:13-22

John 2:17 "His disciples recalled the words of scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Psalms 69:10 "Because **zeal for your house** has consumed me, I am scorned by those who scorn you...."

Parallel Passages found in Mt 21:12–13; Mk 11:15–17; Lk 19:45–46 (John at the beginning, others last week)

Matthew 21:12-13 representative of synoptic gospels "Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer," but **you are making it a "den of robbers."**"

John records Jesus saying, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace" (John 2:16), Matthew includes the accusation 'den of robbers'.

Isaiah 56:7 "Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in **my house of prayer**; Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, For my house shall be called a **house of prayer for all peoples**."

Jeremiah 7:11 "Has this house which bears my name become in your eyes a **den of thieves**? I have seen it for myself!—oracle of the LORD."

Prophecy of Zechariah foretells coming day of no commerce in the Temple: Zechariah 14:21 "No longer will there be merchants in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day."

Jesus in relation to Temple & Sabbath as Institutions

Matthew 12:2-8 "When the Pharisees saw this (disciples plucking/eating grain on Sabbath), they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the **temple** violate the sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice' (Hosea 6:6) you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

Jesus' View of the Temple

Matthew 24:1-2 "Jesus left the temple area and was going away, when his disciples approached him to point out the temple buildings. He said to them in reply, "You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will **not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.**"

Matthew 23:37-38 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling! Behold, your **house will be abandoned, desolate.**"

Compare to Luke 21:5-6 “While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, he said, “All that you see here— the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

John 5:18 “For this reason the Jews tried all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath but he also called God his own father, making himself equal to God.”

John 11:53 “So from that day on they planned to kill him.” After Lazarus resurrection!

John 12:10-11 “And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.”

Temple Claim comes back against Jesus in testimony at trial and on the cross

Mark 14:57-58 “Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.’” *Even so their testimony did not agree.*

Mark 15:29-30 “Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross.” ***Compare to Matthew Repeats 26:61; 27:40***

Claim against Stephen by Sanhedrin and Other Detractors

Acts of Apostles 6:14 “For we have heard him claim that this Jesus the Nazorean will *destroy this place* and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.”

Prophetic Jesus is in good company with Old Testament prophets who railed against the Temple

Amos 5:21 “I hate, I despise your feasts, I take no pleasure in your solemnities. Even though you bring me your burnt offerings and grain offerings I will not accept them; Your stall-fed communion offerings, I will not look upon them. Take away from me your noisy songs; The melodies of your harps, I will not listen to them. Rather let justice surge like waters, and righteousness like an unfailing stream.”

Isaiah 1:11-13 “What do I care for the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD. I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings; In the blood of calves, lambs, and goats I find no pleasure. When you come to appear before me, who asks these things of you? Trample my courts no more! To bring offerings is useless; incense is an abomination to me, New moon and sabbath, calling assemblies—festive convocations with wickedness- these I cannot bear.”

Jeremiah 6:20 “Of what use to me is incense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from far-off lands? Your burnt offerings find no favor with me, your sacrifices do not please me

Psalms 51:18-19 “For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.”

Mark Chapter 11 Uniquely sandwiches the Cleansing of the Temple between episodes of first cursing a fruitless fig tree and then later discovering the fig tree withered in Mark!

Mark 11:13-14 "Seeing from a distance a fig tree in leaf, Jesus went over to see if he could find anything on it. When he reached it he found nothing but leaves; it was not the time for figs. And he said to it in reply, "May no one ever eat of your fruit again!" And his disciples heard it.

Then Jesus Visits the Temple

Mark 11:15-18 "They came to Jerusalem, and on entering the temple area he began to drive out those selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. He did not permit anyone to carry anything through the temple area. Then he taught them saying, "Is it not written: 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples'? But you have made it a den of thieves."

Then the Apostles discover the Fig Tree Withered

Mark 11:20-22 "Early in the morning, as they were walking along, they saw the fig tree withered to its roots. Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." Jesus said to them in reply, "Have faith in God....." (Jesus goes on to offer teaching on prayer)

Another 'Jesus in Temple' or Father's House Episode

Luke 2:49-50 "And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in **my Father's house**?" But they did not understand what he said to them."

Some scary episodes from scriptures about the idol of money taking God's place!

Acts 8:18-24 "When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles' hands, **he offered them money** and said, "**Give me this power too**, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your money perish with you, **because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money**. You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God. Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven. For I see that you are filled with bitter gall and are in the bonds of iniquity." Simon said in reply, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters..... You cannot serve God and mammon."

Acts 5:1-10 "A man named Ananias, however, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. He retained for himself, with his wife's knowledge, some of the purchase price, took the remainder, and put it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped him up, then carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for this amount?" She answered, "Yes, for that amount." Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen, the footsteps of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." At once, she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men entered they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband."