

(Study from Jack Gabbert on The Life Of Christ)

THESECONDCLEANSINGOFTHETEMPLE

TEXT: Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48

PLACE: Jerusalem

TIME: Monday

◆ TheCleansing

➔ As Jesus entered the temple, He _____ out all those who were _____ and _____ ... and _____ the tables of the _____ and the seats of those who were selling _____.

† The Court of the Gentiles was called the "Bazaar of Annas" because the family of the High Priest made their fortune from the "markets" there. It was "big business." Over \$1,000,000 a year was cleared by the family of the High Priest. The family of the High Priest had a "corner" on the market of "Kosher" animals and "Kosher" money for sale to the Passover pilgrims. Jewish worshippers came from all over the Roman empire. Many of them could not bring a Passover lamb or Jewish shekels for their offerings. Nothing else was acceptable. Furthermore, all the priests had to do was pronounce any lamb that had been brought, unsuitable, and another one had to be obtained before the worshippers could observe the Passover. Often prices at the great feasts went up as much as fifteen times over the usual price of the lamb or a shekel. People were being exploited and defrauded in the name of religion.

➔ There was another reason Jesus took this public action: Paul T. Butler writes, "No longer will He keep a 'low profile' on His Messiahship. Now is the time the issue is to be faced openly, thoroughly and plainly. There must be no lingering doubts about how much authority Jesus claims. The logical place for that authority to be claimed is the Temple."

◆ TheEffects

➔ The chief priest (Sadducees) and the scribes (scholars who headed the Pharisees) began _____ how to _____ Jesus.

➔ Why were they afraid of Him?

◆ TheApplicationForUs

➔ The church, made of "living stones," is God's temple today (Ephesians 2:11-22). He wants it to be His house of prayer and evangelism. He is angry when it prostitutes itself before the gods of materialism, false teaching and sensuality. Some of the last admonitions of the New Testament are for the church to purge itself - to repent - lest He come and take away its light (cp. Revelation 2-3). Let the church know what happened to the Temple (Matthew 23:37-24:35; Luke 21:5-33), and repent.