

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Merged¹ from Mark 11:15-19; Matthew 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22

Mt 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.

Mk 11:15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. Jn 2:15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle. Mk 11:15b He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,¹⁶ and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’ [Isaiah 56:7]? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’²² [Jeremiah 7:11]”

Jn 2:17 His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” [Psalms 69:9]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Mt 21:14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

¹ See *Gospel Parallels* for a multi-column format.

² Evans (Mark NICNT, 407) translates “den of robbers” as “cave of marauders.”

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’ [Psalm 8:2]?”

Mk 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

19 When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

Lk 19:47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. 48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.