

The Temple Events

Read Mark 11:15-19

So why did Jesus drive these merchants and money changers out of the temple? Well a good place to start would be why they were there in the first place. Every year, all male Jews that were 12 years or older were expected to attend the Passover at the Temple. Upon entering the temple, A temple tax of a half shekel was required. This meant that any foreign coin would not be accepted. Money changers were placed in the temple courts as a way for travelers to exchange the coin for shekels. Along with them, many would not bring an animal to sacrifice for fear it would be rejected for not being good enough. Instead, they purchased animals at the temple itself. These merchants and money changers, driven by greed, would charge exorbitant amounts for the animals and money exchanged.

We actually see Jesus call them out for this as he drives them out of the temple in Mark 11:17 “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations, but you have made it ‘a den of robbers’. They had taken the Temple, God's house of worship, and defiled it with their sin and their greed. This was interfering with the worship and praise occurring in the house of God. When Jesus entered the temple, he cleansed it of the sinful activities that were interfering with the worship of God.

Prayer Prompt

Much like Jesus cleansed the temple of sin that was interfering with worship, there can be sin in our own lives that can be interfering with our own worship and praise of God. Take some time away from distractions and pray to God and ask him to show you what could be getting in the way of worshiping him in your own life.

Worship Song

In-Between by Carrollton