

§24: THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

John 2:14–22

Jesus Drives Out Money-Changers

John 2:14–16	Matt. 21:12–13	Mark 11:15–17	Luke 19:45–46
<p>[13 And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.]</p> <p>14 And He found in the temple-area those selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money-changers seated,</p> <p>15 and He made a whip of ropes and drove out all</p> <p>from the temple-area, also the sheep and the oxen, and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and He overturned the tables.</p> <p>16 And He said to those selling the doves: Take these things away from here;</p> <p>stop making the house of My Father a market-house.</p>	<p>12 And Jesus entered the temple-area</p> <p>and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple-area,</p> <p>and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves.</p> <p>13 And he said to them:</p> <p>It is written: My house shall be called a house of prayer;</p> <p>but you are making it a robbers' den.</p>	<p>15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple-area</p> <p>and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple-area,</p> <p>and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves;</p> <p>16 and he would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple-area.</p> <p>17 And he began to teach and say to them:</p> <p>Is it not written: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers' den.</p>	<p>45 And he entered the temple-area</p> <p>and began to cast out those who were selling,</p> <p>46 saying to them:</p> <p>It is written: And my house shall be a house of prayer;</p> <p>but you have made it a robbers' den.</p>

Reactions

John 2:17–18

<p>17 His disciples remembered that it was written: The zeal of [or, for] Your house will consume Me.</p> <p>18 The Jews therefore answered and said to Him: What sign do you show to us that You do these things?</p>
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Jesus' Answer

John 2:19

19 Jesus answered and said to them:
Destroy this temple-sanctuary,
and in three days I will raise it up.

The Jews Misunderstanding

John 2:20

20 The Jews therefore said:
In forty-six years this temple-sanctuary was built,
and You will raise it up in three days?

John's Explanation

John 2:21–22

21 But He was speaking concerning the temple-sanctuary of His body.
22 When therefore He was raised from the dead,
His disciples remembered that He said this,
and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Notes

1. The accounts of Matt., Mark, and Luke indicate there was a second cleansing of the temple shortly before Jesus' crucifixion.
2. **Temple-area/temple-sanctuary.** Recall the distinction between these two terms.
3. **Forty-six years (2:20).** Herod the Great became ruler of Palestine in 37 B.C. Josephus records that the construction of the temple began in the 18th year of his reign, which would be 20/19 B.C. Adding the 46 years of John 2:20 would make it ca. 27 A.D. at this time. For a description of the temple by Josephus, see: *Wars of the Jews*, V, 184–227.
4. Jesus viewed His body as a temple-sanctuary. Note the various areas in which the Christian and temple-sanctuary are related:
 - a. 1 Cor. 6:19
 - b. 1 Cor. 3:16–17; 2 Cor. 6:16
 - c. Eph. 2:21
 - d. Rev. 3:12; 7:15; 21:22