

Lesson 3

Jesus visits the Temple in Jerusalem

The religious law during Jesus' time required that people buy sacrificial animals, paid for in special temple currency. Worshipers would have to go into the Court of the Gentiles, change their money into temple money, and buy an animal. The Court of the Gentiles was supposed to be a place of worship, but it had become a marketplace, full of buying and selling.

The Bible tells us of a time when Jesus visits the temple and becomes angry with the money changers

John 2:13-16 "The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"



Jesus worshipped God in the temple like Christians worship God in a church building. When he went to the temple, however, he saw things he did not like. There were men selling animals and charging to trade money right inside the temple grounds. Jesus was very angry and turned over the tables and forced the merchants out.

Jesus believed that the merchants did not belong there. It was a place of worship, not a marketplace for men to make money. It was a holy place for

meeting and serving God.

The merchants believed that if the people needed animals, it was reasonable to sell to them. This concept was not evil, but it was how and where the merchants sold that angered Jesus. First, they did it in the temple, a place devoted to prayer and worship. Second, they cheated the people, by taking more money than they should from the worshippers.

Answer these questions.

1. Describe the temple.



2. What does it mean to have authority?
Using a dictionary/internet write a definition.

3. Why did Jesus have authority to do what he did in the Temple?

4. What were the Jewish people doing wrong in the eyes of Jesus?
How did it go against the teachings of God?

Fill in the table below.

People	What would they have felt?	Why would they have felt that way?
Disciples		
Jesus		
Teachers of the Law		
Traders/money changers		

Test yourself – True or false quiz

- Jesus was angry that the people were abusing the temple.
- Jesus went to the priests to complain about the merchants.
- True worship takes place within the heart.
- There is no wrong way to worship.
- We should be good during service because worshipping God is like meeting him.
- God is pleased when we worship Him with an unselfish and honest heart.
- Jesus had no business being in the Court of the Gentiles.