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## JESUS CLEANSSED THE TEMPLE

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### **Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19**

Dear Parents,

In preparation for the Passover feast, Jesus made His triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple there. Herod the Great completely rebuilt the temple in 20–18 B.C. as part of his architectural projects. The temple was surrounded by walls and gates, with specific places for Gentiles, women, and men to worship God and offer sacrifices. The temple was a symbol of God's presence among His people.

When Jesus entered the Court of the Gentiles, He was furious to see people buying and selling in the temple. Animal sacrifices were required for participation in the temple. (See Deut. 16:16.) For many worshipers traveling from all over the Roman Empire to take part in Passover, it was easier to purchase unblemished animals for sacrificing in the Court of the Gentiles. There, they also exchanged foreign currency for the temple taxes and offerings. So why was Jesus angry at the people?

The merchants buying and selling in the temple were treating the temple as a market or bazaar, not like the house of prayer for all nations that God had intended for it to be. (See Isa. 56:7.) The money changers' prices were so exorbitant, they were practically robbing the people. (Mark 11:17) On top of that, people were using the temple courts as a shortcut to get to their businesses. The Gentiles who wished to worship God in peace were surrounded by greed and extortion.

Jesus threw out the merchants and money changers. He was committed to honoring God. The chief priests and the scribes saw what happened, and they wanted to destroy Jesus. (Luke 19:47)

**When Jesus cleared the dishonest people from the temple, He showed His commitment to honoring God. The temple was supposed to be a place where people could pray and worship God. Jesus was going to die on the cross to take away people's sins so anyone who trusted in Him could come to God.**

These events led up to Jesus' death and resurrection, and now we do not need to go to a temple to meet with God. Jesus came as God's presence among us (John 1:14) and to be the final sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. We gather with the church to worship Him together.

## FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- Babies and Toddlers
  - Jesus did God's plan.
  - People gave gifts to God in the temple.
  - Jesus made the people selling in the temple leave.
  - Jesus showed He is the Messiah.
- Preschool
  - Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death.
  - Jesus stopped people from misusing the temple.
- Kids
  - Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.
  - Jesus drove out the people who were misusing the temple.

## UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- Luke 4:18

## NEXT WEEK

- "The Last Supper" (Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15)



### Our Vision for Children

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord's command to "bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses' instruction to God's people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

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