



Lesson 16: *Jesus and the Temple* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus taught that just as the Temple was supposed to be a holy place where blood sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin were made, his body would become God's holy Temple and his blood would pay for sin.
- Jesus drove out the money changers from the Court of the Gentiles, where the Gentiles were allowed to come and worship God. By this action, he reminded Israel that his promise was for all nations.

"I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (Jesus holding a whip, turning over tables)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder where this is taking place.

I wonder what Jesus is doing. Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary: Today, our Bible story takes us to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the most important place for the Israelites to worship God. It was supposed to be a holy place where animal blood sacrifices were offered for the forgiveness of sins. It was a place of worship and prayer. At the Temple there was a special place for Gentiles to come and worship God too. Gentiles are people who are not Israelites; they are people from other nations. It had always been God's plan that the Israelites would bless the people from other nations by telling them about the one true God and his love for everyone. But the Israelites had forgotten God's plan and purpose for them. One day Jesus visited the Temple and saw that the Temple courtyard was filled with shopping stalls and animals and greedy money changers who were cheating the people of their money! There were many Gentiles and Jewish people there who wanted to pray and offer a sacrifice to God, but God's house had become a marketplace instead of a house of prayer. Jesus tipped over the tables of the money changers and drove out the animals to make room for the true worshippers of God. After he had done this, the lame and blind people who were there came to Jesus to be healed. Even the children in the crowd came to Jesus and sang, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" But the Jewish leaders and the sellers were very angry that Jesus cleared away their greedy trade. After Jesus cleared the Temple, he told the people that soon the Temple made of stone would not be God's place to live anymore. Instead **Jesus** would be the Temple and **his** blood would pay for the sins of all people. Jesus would have to suffer and die to do this. If we want to meet with God we must go, not to a building, but to Jesus.

Suggested Questions: How does Jesus help the people in this story? (He confronts sin, teaches about true worship, heals people)

- In this story how did Jesus help the Gentiles worship God in the temple? (chased out the greedy money changers and restored their place of worship)
- Why was Jesus angry and why did he tip over the tables? (because the moneychangers were sinning greatly by not honoring God's holy place. They were cheating people and not allowing the Gentiles to worship God.)
- What did God *really* want the Temple to be for? (A house of prayer and worship, a place of sacrifice for the forgiveness for sin, and a place where all the people of the world could come to know and worship God)
- What did Jesus mean when he said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."? (He was referring to his own body - that he would die and be raised from the dead in 3 days. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus would become the new Temple where we can meet with God.)
- How does this story help us today? (Because we know that Jesus is the true Temple and that he is always with us. We don't have to travel to a certain city or place to worship God, Jesus is with us everywhere.)

Bible Memory Verse: "My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray." (Isaiah 56:7b - NIRV)