



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

- **Matthew 21:12**

**And Jesus went into  
the temple of God,  
and cast out all them that sold  
and bought in the temple,  
and overthrew the tables of  
the moneychangers, and the  
seats of them that sold doves,**

- Jesus Cleanses the Temple

- Matthew 21:13

And said unto them,

It is written,

My house shall be called

the house of prayer;

but ye have made it

a den of thieves.

- Jesus Cleanses the Temple

- Matthew 21:14

And the blind  
and the lame  
came to him  
in the temple;  
and he healed them.

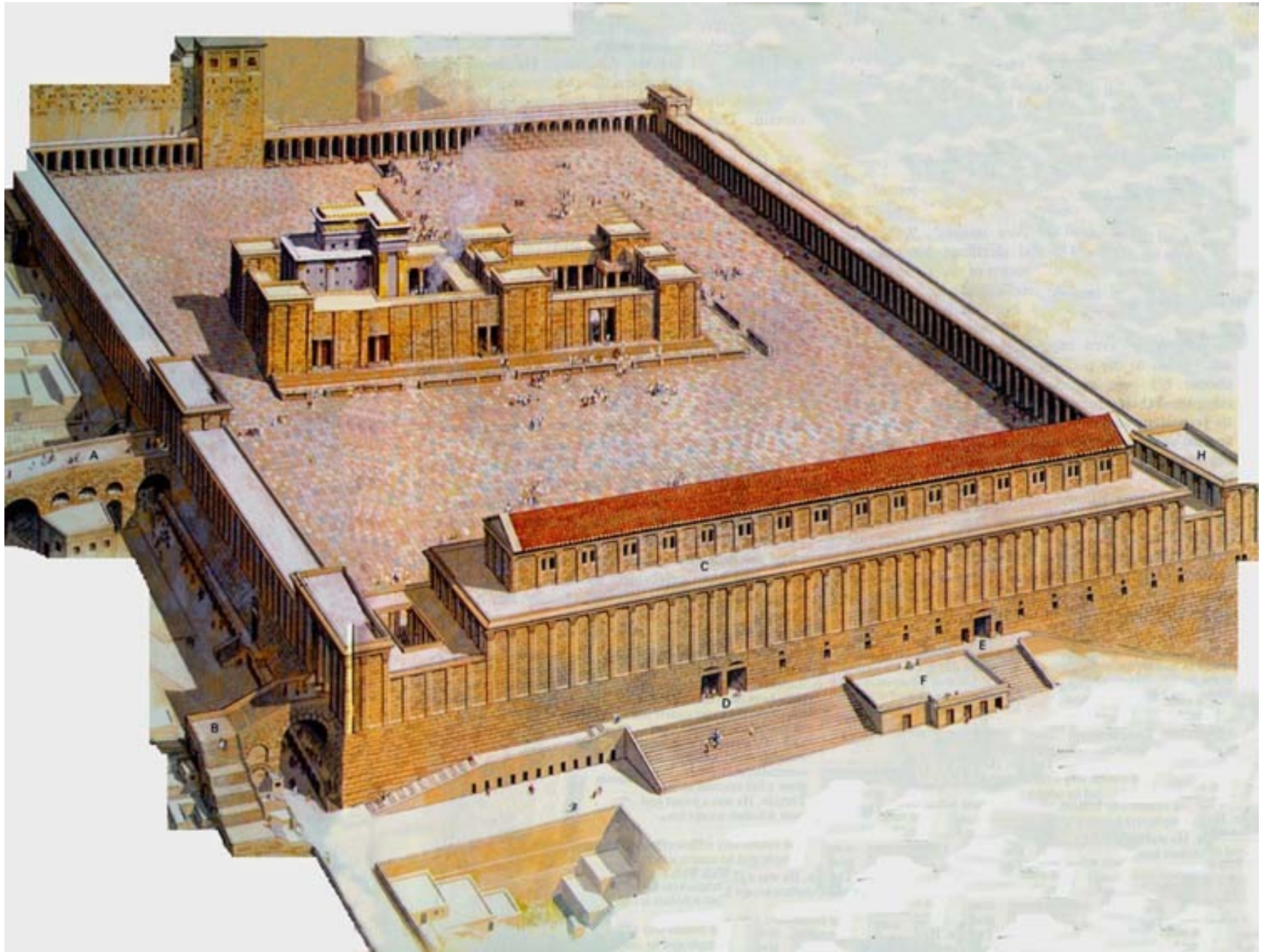
- **Matthew 21:15**

**And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did,**

- **and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David;**
- **they were greatly displeased,**

- In our lesson last week we saw Jesus as the one who creates an uproar in our lives.

- In today's lesson he is creating an uproar in the temple.  
(Matthew 21:12-17)





**Court of the  
Gentiles**





- The entire Temple compound was considered holy, but it became increasingly holy as one entered from east to west.

- **The outer court** was referred to as the Court of the Gentiles because the "**gentiles**" were permitted to enter the Temple area.

- They could walk within in it but they were forbidden to go any further than the outer court.

- They were excluded from entering into any of the inner courts,
- and warning signs in Greek and Latin were placed that gave warning that the penalty for such trespass was death.

- The Romans permitted the Jewish authorities to carry out the death penalty for this offense, even if the offender were a Roman citizen.

- Despite the whole of the Temple being considered holy, the least holy was the court of the gentiles.

- Isaiah 56:7

*for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*



- The temple was the explicate place of worship for the people of God.

- It was a place of

- praise,

- prayer,

- sacrifice,

- worship.

- If you wanted to be close to God you went to the temple.
  - It was to be holy and clean, set apart from the rest of daily life.

- The Temple at Jerusalem was famous throughout the world, so that even the Roman writers described it as one of the world's most amazing buildings.

• The Court  
of the gentiles  
covered an area of  
about  
**35 acres.**

• [https://www.bible-history.com/links.php?  
cat=52&sub=4910&cat\\_name=Second+Temple&subcat\\_name=Court+of+the+Gentiles](https://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=52&sub=4910&cat_name=Second+Temple&subcat_name=Court+of+the+Gentiles)

- It's believed that during Passover there would have been more than a million people packed in to this city.
- Jewish pilgrims from all over the Roman Empire were coming back to this holy city to worship the Lord.

- Money changers were necessary  
to turn all the  
random regional coins  
of various values into  
locally acceptable currency  
to pay the prescribed  
“half-coin” temple tax  
each Jewish man  
was accountable for.



- The half shekel every Jew was required to give to the Temple coffer – is equal to 160 grains of barley, which, in modern measurements, would be approximately eight grams of silver.

- **It is impossible to know** silver's value in biblical times.
- At today's rate of approximately 17 US dollars per ounce, **8 grams of silver** **is around five dollars.**<sup>1</sup>
- **Rabbi Eliezer Posner**  
([https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/673063/jewish/Whats-the-value-of-the-biblical-half-shekel.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/673063/jewish/Whats-the-value-of-the-biblical-half-shekel.htm))

- **Wealthy individuals** who wanted to make an offering for their sins were to bring **a lamb to sacrifice,**
  - But for those who couldn't afford a lamb they could bring **doves** or **pigeons.**

- The pigeon dealers were actually intended as a service for the poorest of the poor especially for those who have traveled from distant regions so they wouldn't have to haul/carry animals with them.

- What began as a good thing got perverted into something truly despicable.

- Service had turned into exploitation.
- The Big Temple Industry was effectively placing a great burden on God's people.



- Put simply,  
there is sin  
in the holy temple,  
what is intended for  
pure worship of God  
has been defiled.

- Sin separates  
us from God.

- Isaiah 59:1

**Don't think that the LORD  
is too weak to save you  
or too deaf to hear your call for help!**

- 59:2 It is because of your sins  
that he doesn't hear you.

It is your sins  
that separate you from God  
when you try to worship him.  
(GNB)

- The temple was for God's glory and men turn it into a market place for personal gain.
- The market place scene placed a barrier between man and God.
  - Jesus could not allow this to continue.

- The temple was the  
“Come and see”  
center of worship  
for the gentiles.
- And when they arrived  
it was filled with  
“filthy lucre”  
(Titus 1:11)

- For the gentile  
this was as close  
as they could get  
to the presence  
of God,

- And it is a **worse environment** for worship than a crowded market place.



- Maybe they came to pray,  
but why bother even trying?
- Sin in their court  
makes worship  
worthless.

- **Sin stains**  
what is holy  
making it  
**unholy** and **common**.

- **Sin**  
**devours**  
and  
**destroys**.

- How Jesus responds to the scene **shows a lot about his character** and how Jesus views and deals with sin.
- He doesn't come in **and try to negotiate** with the money changers.

- He doesn't try to better understand the pigeon dealers.
- He does not quietly ask them to keep their noise to a minimum, adjust their hours.

- He doesn't change  
the definition of  
what is  
good and holy.

- He doesn't tell everyone that he has a new and modern interpretations of the scriptures.
- That makes what they're doing in the temple worthy of celebration rather than concern.

- Isaiah 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

- 5:21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

- We must never negotiation with sin.
- Jesus sees sin and responds with instant radical removal.



- **Drastic measures**  
are needed!
- **If thy hand or thy foot offend thee,  
cut them off, and cast them  
from thee:**
- **it is better for thee to enter into life  
halt or maimed, rather than having  
two hands or two feet to be cast  
into everlasting fire.**  
**(Matthew 18:8)**

- So with Jesus  
you now have  
a new form of  
noisy intense activity  
that at first  
doesn't look  
that peaceful  
or loving.

- **It is a chaotic scene**  
with change  
hitting the floor,
- **Jesus cracking a whip,**
  - **Tables overturned,**
- Merchants, their customers,  
and animals  
**fleeing the temple.**

- Entrenched sin removal **can look chaotic at first,**
- Things that seem orderly are actually **strangling life and worship.**
  - They must be **uprooted** and **removed.**

- We need this Jesus in our lives.
  - This Jesus who has a righteous anger kindled against sin and all that keeps us from true worship.

• He is bold,  
he is mighty,  
and he gets results!

• But,  
he is also  
gentle and kind.

- However,  
gentleness  
and kindness  
does not mean  
there is no firmness,  
no confrontation.

- **Sometimes**

the most loving thing  
you can do for someone  
is the most sever.

- So Jesus  
speaks and acts  
**with authority.**



- This is what our Jesus does, **he enters our lives with authority** and declares our lives and our heart as temples of worship for His father.

- **1Corinthians 3:16**  
**Know ye not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

- It is then that He **assertively** and **aggressively** begins the chaotic process **of expelling sin from our lives** that hinders the purity of our worship.

- **Proverbs 6:23**

**For the commandment is a lamp;  
and the law is light;  
and reproofs of instruction  
are the way of life:**

- He removes what distracts,  
what defiles,
- And then he heals  
bringing peace.
- (Isaiah 9:6)

- Jesus heals the blind and the lame, and restores the temple to its intended purpose.

- As He does with our lives.

Psalm 23:3

He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.

- The blind and the lame were not traditionally even allowed in the temple.
- Their ailments were seen as “unholy”,  
defiling the temple
- And yet here is Jesus healing them in a place the world said they do not belong.

- Jesus comes and accepts us where we are but he never lets us stay the way we are.
- The blind don't want acceptance, the lame don't want affirmation, they want healing.

- Here they are now  
in the temple,  
a house of prayer,  
a place of healing  
and the first thing  
the blind see  
is Jesus.

- Symbolic  
of what sinners see  
once sin is removed  
from their lives.
- Seeing Jesus  
for the first time  
as He really is.



- This is why Jesus cleaned the temple

**BEFORE**

the healings.

- The **blinds**' first sight wouldn't be

**a desecrated temple.**

- Jesus aggressively cleanses sin and radically transforming the broken .

- In this we see Jesus hates our sin more than we do.

- **There is danger in sin**  
as we are apt to  
grow **numb** to it.

- **Hebrews 3:13**

**But exhort one another**  
**daily,...**

**lest any of you be hardened**  
**through the**  
**deceitfulness of sin.**

- **The Chief Priests**  
didn't have an objection  
to the dirty dealers  
nor did they see  
**the beauty of true worship.**

- **Nor did they see**  
the beauty in  
the healing only  
that only Jesus  
could perform.

- What was the reaction of the priest?

- Matthew 21:1

“they were sore displeased”

- In the Greek meaning to be

“Filled with great anger”

- In their eyes  
He actually worked  
against God  
by healing those  
they thought were  
being divinely punished  
for their sins.

- **Without warning**  
and  
**without resistance,**  
Jesus drove them out  
**and overturned**  
**the tables**  
of the money changers.

- What kind of message was Jesus delivering?
  - His message was the purpose of the temple (Matthew 21:13)
  - It was a designated place of worship and not a Jewish Wal-Mart.



- The purpose of the Court of the Gentiles was evangelistic.
- It was a place where gentiles could come to find the one true God.

- But the Jews of Jesus' day had turned it into a cattle stall and a market place.
- The atmosphere promoted anything but worship of God.

- This incident rebukes the present-day desecration of the house of prayer.
- The things which are now done in so many church-houses are not given to worship.

- But have become **places of entertainment** such as,
  - **Ice cream suppers,**
    - **Bazaars,**
  - **Wrestling matches,**
    - And other forms **of entertainment.**

- What are these but idolatrous commercialization of these 'houses of prayer.'
- No wonder that such places are devoid of spirituality and strangers to the word of God.

- It has been over 2,000 years since Jesus cleansed the temple.
- Has mankind learned his lesson?
- Hardly!

- Today we find vendors of  
so called  
sacred relics,
- Painted beads,
- Sacred candles,
- Gilded crucifixes,
  - Bottles of  
holy water.

- So called Christian Vendors babbling and swaying the crowds.
  - If Jesus were on earth today would he not cleanse the temple again.
  - Jeremiah 7:11 (KJV)
- **Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.**



- God's Temple was being defiled and Jesus would have no part of it.

- The one place reserved for God in all the land had been turned into a place of profit and sin.

- These merchants were selling the very means of forgiveness;
- They were profiting from God's grace.

- One last thing to note.
- Our passage ends with Jesus healing the blind and the lame in the Temple Court.
  - They were still there.

- Only those with guilty consciences fled from his wrath.
- Revelation 6:15-16  
And the kings of the earth,  
....said to the  
mountains and rocks,  
Fall on us, and hide us  
from the face of him  
that sitteth on the throne,  
and from the wrath of the Lamb:
- Those who needed him stayed.

- In The Parable of the Great Banquet

- Luke 14:21

Then the master of the house ...  
said to his servant, Go out quickly ...  
and bring in the poor,  
the maimed, the halt, the blind.

- 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant,  
Go out into the highways and hedges,  
and compel them to come in,  
that my house may be filled.

- **Jesus now departs**  
(**Matthew 21:17**)
- These words warn of  
**the Lord's**  
**final withdrawal**  
from those who reject Him.

- If you will not have Jesus,  
He will go.
- But when He does,  
life, light and hope  
go with Him.  
(Matthew 16:4)

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**

