

Today's Reading: Mark 11:15-19

And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city.

Simple Summary (for Parents):

On Monday of Holy Week, Jesus cleansed the temple because it had been turned into a "den of robbers." The temple was the place where God had chosen to manifest His glorious presence in a unique way to His people. But now merchants were carrying out their business—the exchange of money and the sale of animals to be sacrificed—in the temple's outer court (the Court of the Gentiles). This was preventing Gentiles (non-Jews) from worshipping God in the temple, which was to be a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). This story is not an example of Jesus "losing His temper," which He never did, but rather a demonstration of His righteous anger. In fulfillment of Malachi 3:1–4, the Lord had "come to his temple" in order to refine it (another not-so-subtle claim to be Lord!) Not surprisingly, the chief priests and scribes didn't like this and so they sought to "destroy" Jesus.

Discuss:

1. When was the last time you got really angry? What did your anger lead you to do?

(Help set up the discussion about the righteous anger of Jesus and why there are some things that we should be very concerned about.)

2. Why did Jesus drive people out of the temple?

(By using the outer court of the temple to sell things, some Jews were keeping Gentiles from coming in the temple. Point out to your kids that the temple was to be a "house of prayer for all the nations." You may also need to explain that the Jews were God's people, and non-Jews were Gentiles.)

3. Did Jesus lose His temper in today's passage? Was His reaction sinful?

(Help your children see that Jesus did not sin but was righteously angry at the way people were treating God's house, the temple. Jesus hated seeing God dishonored. You might use a practical example to demonstrate when we should be upset. For example, "How would you feel if you walked by and saw one of your friends being hit or kicked by someone else?" Hopefully it would concern you!)

4. What does this passage teach us about God's attitude toward sin? Why do you think we often treat our sin as if it's not that big of a deal?

(Jesus's cleansing of the temple teaches us that God takes sin very seriously. He is holy, and we should treat Him as holy. We tend to treat sin lightly because we often forget or don't realize how righteous and holy God is.)

5. When is the last time you felt badly about a sin that you committed? What should we do when we realize we have sinned against God?

(The Bible tells us to confess our sin to God and to ask Him for forgiveness. God forgives those who are trusting in Jesus, because Jesus died to take the punishment for their sins. We should also ask God to help us turn from our sin so that we can walk in obedience to Him. Turning from sin to God is called repentance.)

Pray:

Confess to God any sins that you know of in your life and ask Him to forgive you because of what Jesus has done on the cross. Pray that God would help you to obey Him by the power of His Spirit.

Sing:

["Man of Sorrows"](#) (See Week 3 Song Sheet for lyrics)