

Clearing Out His Father's House



“Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord.” How the scribes and Pharisees hated to hear those words of praise for Jesus shouted by the crowds. When the Lord rode a donkey into Jerusalem, He was giving the Jewish leaders another sign that He was Messiah. But they rejected Him.

Their jealous hearts could not stand to hear the people praising Him and calling Him the Son of David. Everyone knew the promised Messiah would be a descendant of King David who had been Israel’s most-loved king. But they ignored that sign because they hated Jesus. They had decided He must die, and kept looking for a way to kill Him without upsetting the people who loved Him.

When the procession neared Jerusalem, some Pharisees had come to Jesus out of the multitude and said, “Master, tell Your disciples to be quiet.”

Jesus replied, “If these people kept quiet, the stones would immediately begin praising Me.”

Jesus had always said, “Don’t tell anyone

that I am the Messiah.” But as He rode into Jerusalem that day, He seemed to say, “Here I am. See your Messiah.”

The people were thrilled and joyful to welcome Him as their Messiah. But the Jewish leaders were angry. They tried to make the people stop praising Jesus. That told everyone they had rejected Him. What those leaders really meant was, “We won’t have Jesus of Nazareth as our Messiah.”

Jesus had publicly shown that He was the Son of God. The Jews had publicly said they didn’t want Him. As the leaders, they took it upon themselves to reject Jesus for the whole nation.

Only Jesus knew what terrible suffering lay ahead for God’s chosen people because of that rejection. Only He knew what was going to happen to God’s chosen city and temple. So instead of feeling happy because the people praised Him, Jesus felt very sad. He wept as He came into the city. And He said, “If only you knew what would have brought you peace.”

Jesus meant He was the only One who could have given them true peace. But since

Lesson 4

they had turned against Him, they would never be happy. Then He said that enemies would come and tear down the city and kill the people. All that would happen because they rejected God's Son when He came to live among them.

When Jesus came into the city, He likely sent the two disciples back with the donkey He had borrowed. Then He went into the temple. In His sorrow, He needed a quiet place away from the crowd where He could talk with His Father.

But no one could have prayed in the temple that day. It was full of people because the Passover Feast began that week. Jews from far away already were arriving in the city. They needed to buy a lamb or kid to sacrifice at Passover.

The local people made money at Passover time. They brought lambs and baby goats into the temple court to sell. Money changers set up tables to change foreign coins for the kind of money used in the land of Israel.

Passover time had become a time of cheating. Dishonest sellers charged too much for their animals.

Dishonest money changers also charged too much for their services. Those from a distance couldn't help themselves. They had to have an animal to sacrifice no matter what it cost and they had to pay in Jewish coins. But we can be sure they didn't hand over any money without arguing and complaining and trying to get a lower price.

These sellers and money changers would never have broken into someone's house to steal. They would never have jumped out and robbed a rich man along a lonely road. They were not that kind of thieves.



Nevertheless, they sat there in the court of the temple stealing from out-of-town people who had come for Passover.

God never intended for His house to be like the temple was that day. The Jews thought the temple belonged to them. But God had said it would be a house of prayer for all people. That was written in the Scripture, but who thought of it as a house of prayer amid that racket of bleating animals and shouting people?

No one but Jesus. This temple was His Father's house, but it certainly was not a house of prayer. However, the Son would soon change that.

No other man could have done what Jesus did that day. Those sellers and money changers would not have paid attention to any other man. Afterward, likely none of

them could have said exactly why they had put up with what Jesus made them do. How could one man have made all of them clear out of the temple? But that is what happened. In no time at all, Jesus drove them all out of the temple court—buyers, sellers, sheep, goats, money changers—everyone.

Why didn't those men stand up and argue with Jesus? Why didn't they just refuse to leave? Some likely demanded to know why He was acting that way. All He said was, "The Scripture says, 'My house shall be called the house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves."

No one answered, because they knew Jesus spoke the truth. Perhaps they realized that the Son had the right to clear out His Father's house.

FROM THE STORY

Write *L* for *Jewish Leaders* or *C* for the *crowd following Jesus*.

1. _____ "Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord."
2. _____ "Tell Your disciples to be quiet."
3. _____ "We won't have Jesus as Messiah."
4. _____ Loved Jesus and might be upset if He died.
5. _____ Rejected Jesus for the Jewish nation.
6. _____ Called Him the Messiah, the Son of David.

Lesson 4

THAT'S OUR GOD

Write the letters of the correct answers.

7. What did Jesus say would happen if the people didn't praise Him? _____
- a. He would bring punishment upon the city.
 - b. The scribes and Pharisees would be happy.
 - c. Stones would start praising Him.
8. Jesus wept because _____ and _____.
- a. He knew the Jews would suffer because they rejected Him
 - b. He didn't want to suffer and die
 - c. He was sad that the Jews would not have peace
9. The temple in Jerusalem _____.
- a. was God's house of prayer for all people
 - b. belonged to the Jewish people alone
 - c. was designed to be a marketplace

Answer.

10. What did Jesus say as he drove everyone out of the temple court?
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FOR ME TODAY

You would not think of breaking into someone's house and stealing. But being honest means more than not stealing.

Underline an action that would be dishonest.

11. a. Giving your sister two pieces of your candy and keeping only one.
- b. Sharing a pair of your mittens with a friend who forgot his gloves.
- c. Reading a storybook that you have hidden inside your LightUnit to make it look like you are studying.

HOW THEY LIVED

Write *money changers* or *sellers*.

12. Jews from a foreign land would have to go to the _____ first.
13. Jews needing a sacrifice could get one from the _____.
14. The _____ set up pens for animals; the _____ set up tables.

WE REMEMBER

Underline the correct answers.

15. Getting the colt was an easy job for the disciples because **Jesus had told them what to do, the owner offered the colt before they untied it.**
16. **All, Many** of the Jews shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" as Jesus rode the colt into **Jerusalem, Bethany.**
17. The scribes and Pharisees rejected **all, many** of Jesus' signs.
18. **Jesus, The disciples** said Mary was wasting valuable ointment.
19. **Jesus, The disciples** said Mary had done a beautiful thing.