

First week of February
Jesus Cleanses the Temple

- **Text:** Mark 11:15~18 (February 2 passage)
- **Bottom line:** The temple is a place where everyone comes to God to worship and pray.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 210) Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken,

≡ **2. prayer**

God, the Lord of our family, please give us the faith and grace to rely on you in worship as we confess our weaknesses.

≡ **3. Word**

Read Mark 11:15~18 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

15 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. 16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. 17 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." 18 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.

<NASB>

15 Then they *came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple area and began to drive out those who were selling and buying on the temple grounds, and He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling [a]doves; 16 and He would not allow anyone to carry [b]merchandise through the temple grounds. 17 And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." 18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard this, and they began seeking how to put Him to death; for they were afraid of Him, because all the crowd was astonished at His teaching.

<Word Explanation>

*Den: A place where a group of bad people gather

Understanding Text

Jesus came to Jerusalem and entered the temple. Because the Passover, the biggest Jewish holiday, was near, there were many people in the temple. Jesus threw out of the temple the man who sold animals for sacrifice and those men who changed money for the temple tax. He said that the temple is not a place of business, but a place of prayer.

Understanding the text for leaders

The temple, which began with the tabernacle during the Exodus, was a special place for the Israelites. The temple was built three times by King Solomon, Zerubbabel, and Herod. The first temple was built in the time of King Solomon (1 Kings 8:20~21), but it was destroyed when Judah fell to Babylon (2 Kings 25:8~9). The second temple was built by Zerubbabel (537 B.C.), and the third temple was built by King Herod in the Roman era to win the favor of the Jewish people (20 B.C. ~ 64 A.D.). The temple that Jesus visited was the third temple. Jews from all over the world came to the Temple of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, the nation's greatest holiday. Because of the long distances traveled, they could not bring their own offerings to the temple. So they had to change their money to buy offerings at the designated place of the temple and pay the temple tax. The problem was the people doing business in the temple. They profited from the exchange of money and sold offerings that could not be offered on the altar. They bribed the priests to obtain the right to do business, and some of them were relatives and acquaintances of the priests. When Jesus saw their wickedness, He poured out His holy anger and threw them out. Then quote Isaiah 56:7 and say, "My house is a house of prayer for all peoples." When the chief priests and scribes heard Jesus' words, they hated Him even more, and they devised a plan to get rid of Him. The temple is where God dwells and where we meet Him. It's a place to praise and pray to God, and to listen to God's words. The purpose of the church's existence should be to meet God.

"Now the Lord has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt." (1 Kings 8:20~21).

"In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the Lord and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down." (2 Kings 25:8~9).

"these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7).

4. Sharing

1) Why did Jesus throw out the people who bought and sold and changed money in the temple? (verse 17).

Upper Grades

What did Jesus teach us about the house of God? (verse 17).

Lower Grades

What did Jesus say God's house was like? (verse 17).

Question Guide

There were people in the temple who exchanged money for taxes and bought and sold animals for sacrifice. Let's think together about what God wants the temple to look like.

Comments for Leaders

At that time, there were people in the temple who were buying and selling animals for sacrifice and changing money to pay the temple taxes. The temple, which was supposed to be a place to worship and praise God, has become a place for personal financial gain. Jesus strongly criticized them for turning the temple into a den of robbers. The temple, the house of God, should be a place where everyone can come to worship and meet God.

2) What is the Church like to me? Share what you need to correct in your heart and attitude toward church.

■ **Upper Grades**

How do I prepare for worship? Think back to last Sunday.

■ **Lower Grades**

What do I need to do before I go to church?

□ **Question Guide**

The church is a place where we go to worship and meet God. Think about how you go to church with your heart and attitude.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

God wants the church (the temple) to be filled with the sound of worship and praise to Him. Therefore, children of God should go to church to worship and exalt God, not for personal gain. This should not be misunderstood to mean that churches should not engage in profit-making businesses such as helping the less fortunate or holding bazaars. It means to do alms and good works, but to be careful and vigilant about things that are for personal gain.

≡ **5. Thanks**

What kind of church is the church at which I worship every Sunday? Confess the good things about our church and give thanks to God.

≡ **6. prayer**

Thank you, God, for giving us a church where we can worship. We pray that our church would be a place to meet You, not a place to seek our own interests. Please let all of us prepare for worship with all our hearts and souls and come before God with joy.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"

≡ **7. Family Mission**

Make your own checklist of what you need to prepare on Saturday for Sunday service.

<Create a checklist > *What to bring: Whiteboard, letter paper, board pen, colored pen, magnet or adhesive tape

1. Each of us will talk together about what we will do on Saturday in preparation for the Sunday service.
2. On a whiteboard, write down the roles of parents and children, or what you need to prepare together.
3. Stick your completed checklist on the fridge or on the wall so you can see it clearly.