

# The Cleansing of My Temple

By Mary Kane

**Please read Matthew 21:12-17.**



As Jesus entered Jerusalem the week of His crucifixion, He was greeted by crowds of people who threw down palms and cloaks for him to pass over. While he rode through the city on a donkey, the people shouted "Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" The Savior had arrived in the city in triumph.

The first place Jesus visited upon His arrival in Jerusalem was the temple. Unscrupulous businessmen, seeing a chance to make a quick profit, set up shop within the temple walls. They sold "approved animals" for elevated prices to the worshippers who came to make a sacrifice for their sins. The businessmen took advantage of the people and cheated them of their money.

Jesus needed to prepare the temple for the final sacrifice that would ever need to be offered—the Lamb of God. Prior to this time, the "lambs of men" had been offered as a sacrifice for the sin. One final sacrifice, the perfect Lamb of God would finally pay in full the debt owed because of the sin of the world. In righteous anger, Jesus drove the money changers from the temple proclaiming, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

After Jesus cleansed the temple, the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them.

1 Corinthians 6:19 states that as believers in Christ, our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. As we move into Holy week let us please take some time cleanse our temples from any unrighteousness by asking ourselves a few questions inspired by our reading from today:

Like the money changers:

**Am I "selling God short" of my time, talents or energy?**

**Is anything stealing from my time with God?**

Jesus also demonstrated by word and deed that His house is to be used for a few important purposes: prayer, forgiveness of sin, and healing for the blind and the lame.

In regards to prayer and sacrifice:

**Who needs you to pray for them on a continual basis?**

**What do you need prayer for at this time?**

**What habit of sin do you need to lay down at the altar of God?**

In regards to lameness and blindness:

**What is hindering your walk with the Lord?**

**Who's needs have you been blind to?**

**Prayer:**

Dearest Holy Father,

During this final Holy Week help us to follow your Son down the Via Delarosa to the cross. Help us to lay down our sin, our blindness and our lameness at the foot of the cross and accept you grace and forgiveness. Please reveal to us Father any habits, thought patterns or behaviors that are offensive to you. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right Spirit within us as we remember with sorrow and joy Your Son's sacrifice upon the cross.

In Jesus Holy Name we pray,

Amen.

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