

## **Jesus Clears the Temple**

John 2:13-25

by Don Falkos

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Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover. In the outer court of the Temple he found merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as moneychangers sitting at their tables. The animals were needed for sacrifices; and people who had traveled a great distance had to be able to purchase these sacrificial animals near the Temple – but not in the Temple itself! The same with the moneychangers – not just any coinage was acceptable as payment for the Temple tax. Foreign currency had to be exchanged, at a premium, for the appropriate Jewish coins – but not in the Temple itself!

Jesus fashioned a whip out of cords and drove the merchants and their livestock out of the Temple. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers, scattering their coins over the floor. He said to those selling doves, "Get these things out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace?"

His disciples remembered the Psalm that says, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The religious leaders demanded, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove you have the right to do all this?"

Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

"What? This Temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you can rebuild it in three days?" But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his own body.

Many people began to trust in Jesus because of the miraculous signs he was performing. But Jesus knew their trust was undependable, based in the signs they were seeing, not in the man to whom the signs were pointing. He understood human nature; he knew what was in each person's heart.