

## Day 2

# MY HOUSE

*Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45–48, and John 2:13–17*

The following morning, when Jesus arrived at the temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." (Luke 19:46). On Monday evening Jesus stayed in Bethany again, probably in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

### Questions

1. Do you see Jesus throwing a temper tantrum in the temple?
2. Why is this the picture you have?
3. Could there be more to the story?

### Changing Your Mind

A few things are clear. Jesus did not whip the people but made the whip to chase out the animals. When you look closer you can also see that Jesus was in fact quoting a very well know portion of text that they all would have known. Let's read Jeremiah 7:1-11. Are there any similarities to what you read here and what we read in Luke 19?

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message: 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!" If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe" —safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching!' declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 7:1-11 (NIV)

Could it be that Jesus did not lose his temper but was in fact acting out a kind of prophetic theatre? We know that most if not all Scripture was performed in the Jewish and early church context. It was memorised and delivered to a people (no Netflix or Kindle). People knew the law and the prophets. And would recognise sentences and phrases immediately. When Jesus overturns the tables it's important to listen to what He says and how He says it. And it's important to know what people would have heard in memory.

### Moving Forward

The God that is revealed in Christ is a God of peace. Not a God of violence. Too often the story of the temple has been a justification for Holy war or violence. When we look closer at the story, we can detect clear passion from Christ. He brings strong rebuke. Violence is never the answer. Where in your life have you ever experienced moments of intense passion? What did you communicate through your actions and words?

