

Jesus Clears the Temple

Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:12-24

PPT Title

Jesus Clears the Temple

Main Point: Jesus wants your temple - your life - to be filled with Him!

Key Verse: *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* - 1 Corinthians 3:16

Prop: A small table set up with lots of pennies and coins (you may want to set a tablecloth down under the coins); a brand new backpack, something yucky like a rotten, mashed up banana

BACKGROUND/REVIEW:

Teacher: Enter the room, and cause a big scene by knocking over the table with a loud crash. If the table is too large to overturn, use the tablecloth and cause a scene by yanking it off the table. **Ask:** Did that get your attention? **Say:** Jesus did something similar in the big temple in Jerusalem. Do you think people noticed? Of course they did! Before we talk about what Jesus did, let's talk about **why** He did it.

Hold up a brand new backpack or purse. Talk about how much you love your special backpack and all the cool stuff you're going to put into it. Then show something gross like a rotten, mashed up banana. Ask the kids if they think you would like this to be placed into your very special backpack.

Say: Think of something that is special to you. How would you feel if someone broke it or filled it with garbage?



Well, the temple was a very special place to Jesus. It was the special building in Jerusalem where God's people came to worship Him. In this building, people made animal sacrifices so God would cover their sins. It was a very special place for God to meet with His people. When the temple was built, God said, *"My eyes and My heart will always be there."* - 1 Kings 9:3. Jesus called the temple His Father's House.

Jesus was brought to the temple as a baby. Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple to worship each year. In fact, when He was 12 years old, he was accidentally left at the temple! Jesus was very familiar with the temple, and it was a special place to Him. Now that Jesus was grown, He was going to enter the temple again, and He would become very angry at what He saw.

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE



Jesus, His family, and His disciples went into Jerusalem. It was the time of the Jewish Passover Feast. (Teacher, remind the children of the Passover Lamb.)

Say: Many people traveled a LONG way to come to the temple. The temple was VERY crowded! Not only were there a lot of people, there were also many animals. Animals in the temple? Why would that be? Because God's people made animal sacrifices in the temple for the forgiveness of their sins (Leviticus 17:11).



Since most people traveled a long way to the temple, it was difficult to bring animals

along to sacrifice, so there were lambs and doves for sale at the temple. Years before, these animals were sold further away from the Temple. And in years past, these animals were sold as a convenience at a **fair price** to tired travelers. But now, when people brought their own animal from home, the religious leaders would tell them that their lamb or dove wasn't good enough. The people were forced to buy another animal - and the animal sellers charged a very high price. The people were being ripped off.



The temple looked like a market place. Not only were animals being sold, but also money was being exchanged. The religious leaders said that the Roman coins made God unhappy because they had a picture of Caesar on them, and Caesar claimed to be god. So, they told the people that they had to buy special "temple coins" to put in the offering. The leaders over-charged people on purpose so that they could become rich. **Ask:** Does this sound right to you? *No!*

Let's read together in Mark 11:15-17:



When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the temple area. He began chasing out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He would not allow anyone to carry items for sale through the temple courtyards.

Then He taught them. He told them, "It is written that the Lord said, "My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray." (Isaiah 56:7) But you have made it a 'den for robbers.'" (Jeremiah 7:11)



Say: The Pharisees saw what Jesus did and it made them really angry (Matthew 21:15). They wanted to know who in the world He thought He was.

It's kind of like if you were at school and you broke in line, and another kid came up and told you that you had to stay after school for that. You might say to him, "Who do you think you are telling me that I have to go to stay after school? You're just a kid!"

That's exactly how the Pharisees felt. They wanted to know why Jesus thought He had the right, or the authority, to clear out the Temple. (Truthfully, it was the Pharisees' job to do this. They should have been making sure the Temple was treated the right way.)

Then the Jews asked Him, "What miraculous sign can you show us? Can you prove Your authority to do all of this?" - John 2:18



Jesus gave them a very strange answer. He told them: *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.* - John 2:19

The Jewish leaders said to Him, "This temple has been under construction for 46 years, and you are going to raise it up in 3 days?" But Jesus was not talking about the Temple they were standing in. He was talking about the temple of His own body. Jesus declared that the temple would be destroyed and that He would rebuild it in three days. The Jews were thinking of the temple of stone, but Jesus was referring to His body.

The Pharisees demanded a "sign." Jesus did not show them a sign right then and there. Instead, He spoke to them about the **ULTIMATE SIGN** that was about to come. In less than a week, God would raise Him from the dead; that would certainly prove that He had God's authority. But the Pharisees did not understand what Jesus was talking about.

After Jesus had completely cleaned out the Temple, He began to teach the many people who listened to Him. He healed illnesses, and children praised His name. The chief priests and the Pharisees became more and more angry. They were afraid and jealous of Jesus, because many people were amazed by His teaching. People were following

Jesus instead of following the Pharisees. When evening came, Jesus left the city.

Application: I want you guys to know that this story REALLY applies to your life! It applies more than you can imagine. Now, we don't have a temple building today. We do have a building that we call church, but really - get this - YOU and I ARE THE CHURCH. Listen to this truth.

PPT Verse

1 Corinthians 3:16 says: *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

Say: Anyone who trusts in Jesus is God's temple because God's Holy Spirit lives inside of them! Did you know that your body became a temple when you put your trust in Jesus? So how should we treat the temple? How did Jesus treat the Temple? He made sure it was cleaned out from things that were impure. We should do the same.

1 Corinthians 6:20 says: *Christ has paid the price for you. So use your bodies in a way that honors God.*

Say: Do not use your body to sin. Guard your eyes - what you choose to see; Guard your ears - what you choose to listen to; Control your feet - where you choose to go. (For young kids, have them blink eyes, wiggle hands, and wiggle feet.)

And 2 Corinthians 7:1 says: *Dear friends, we have these promises from God. So let us make ourselves pure from everything that pollutes our bodies and spirits. Let us be completely holy. We want to honor God.*

Ask: What did Jesus say His temple should be? *A house of prayer.* What do you think Jesus wants YOUR TEMPLE to be? *A house of prayer.*

PRAYER is simply talking to God. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere. There is no one who can keep you from talking to God. He WANTS you to talk to Him! Jesus wants your temple - your life - to be filled with Him!

PPT Main Point