

## CLEANING THE TEMPLE

John 2:12-25

After the wedding at Cana, Jesus traveled to the city of Capernaum. His mother, his brothers, and his disciples went with him. Jesus did not stay in Capernaum long at this time, but he went there often during his work on earth.

It was the time of year for the celebration of the passover. The passover was a remembrance of how God had brought the Jews out of Egypt, as well as the symbol of the lamb that would die to take away the sins of all mankind. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, for the law required that Jews must celebrate the passover in the city that God calls his own.

Jesus went to the temple, the place where the people of Israel went to worship and glorify God. But when he arrived, Jesus found people in the temple selling oxen, and sheep, and doves, as well as changers of money. These people were not in the temple to worship God, nor were they there to help others with their worship, but instead these people had made God's house a place of dishonest business. They cheated the people who came to worship God by selling poor quality animals at unfair prices. The money changers cheated the people by not giving them a fair exchange for their foreign currency.

When Jesus saw this wickedness, he made a whip of small cords, and chased those wicked people out of the temple, along with their oxen and sheep. He poured out the money changers purses and overturned their tables. Jesus told those that sold doves, "Take these things out of here. Do not make my Father's house a place of business."

When the disciples saw this, they remembered that it was written, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

Often times people in our day make merchandise of God's name as they did at the temple. Some people use the name of Jesus to sell things that neither glorify God nor help people to know God. It is important for Christians to be wise and discerning in how they see those things that are bought and sold in the name of Christ, and to avoid being taken in by schemers.

When the Jews saw Jesus clear out the temple, they said to him, "What sign do you show us that gives you the right to do these things?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews of course, did not understand what Jesus was talking about. They thought that he spoke of the actual temple, so they said, "It took forty six years to build this temple, and you say that you can build it in three days?"

Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body, and his death and resurrection. Afterwards, when Jesus had risen from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the words which Jesus had spoken.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the passover, many people believed in his name when they saw the miracles that he did. But Jesus did not put his trust in these people. for he knew the character of men, and how they change their minds and loyalty from day to day. Jesus did not need any one to tell him the nature of men for he knows the heart of man.

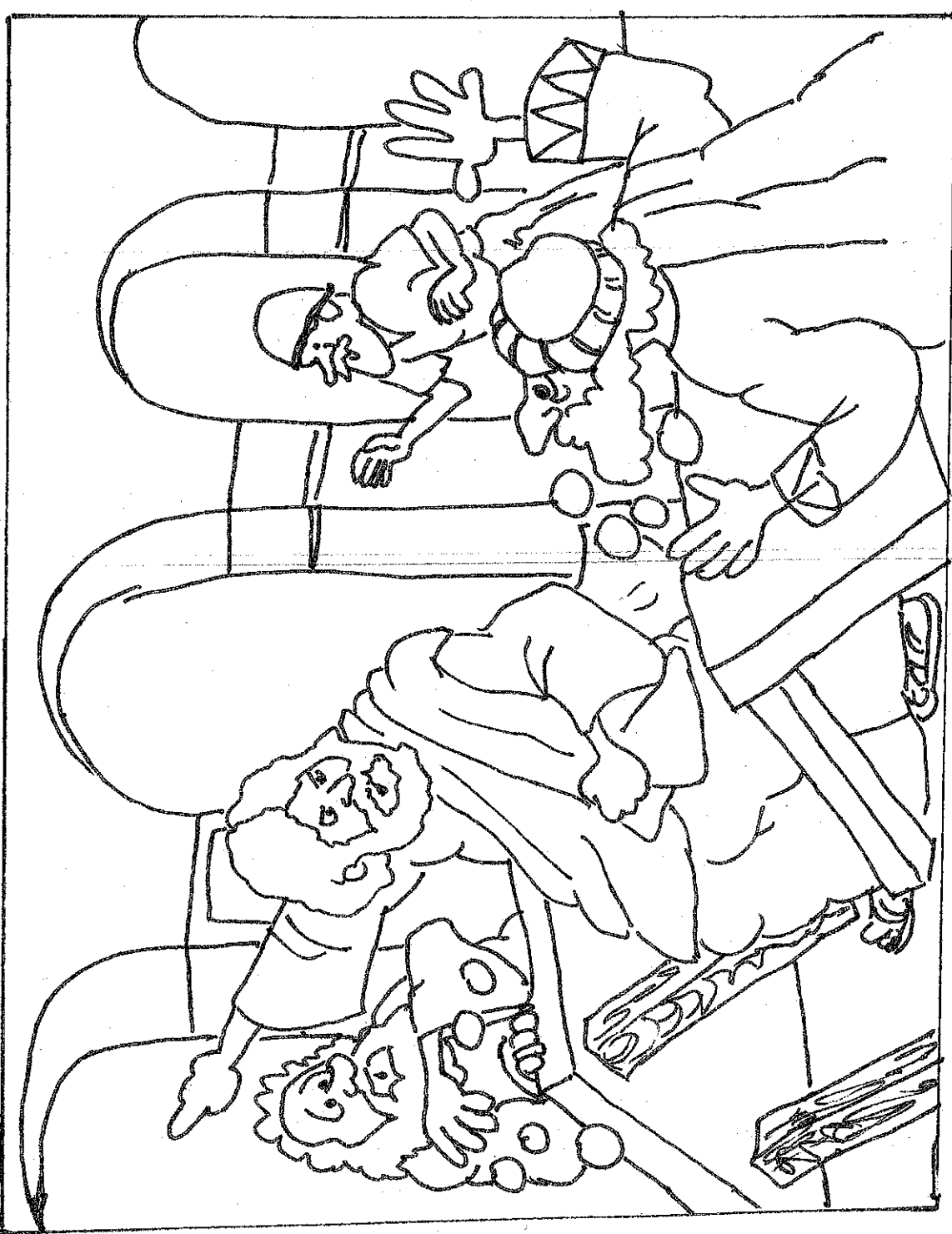
Just as he did then, Jesus knows the heart of each person. He knows our thoughts and plans before we even know them ourselves. If we put our trust in people we will often be hurt and disappointed, because people are changeable. But, if we put our hope and trust in Jesus, we will never be disappointed. Jesus is totally dependable and true.

**MORAL LESSON:** Put your trust in Jesus who never changes, not in people who may fail you.

**LEARN:** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

1. Color picture. Cut around edge and paste onto construction paper.  
2. Cut out gold pieces and paste on coins.

3. Make whip and pat into Jesus hand. Use round toothpick - cut off ends. Use twist tie, cut off most of paper. Twist around stick.



Make slits on top + bottom of Jesus fist so that whip can slip in.