

Jared got up early on the Monday morning with anticipation. This was a special week. Jews from everywhere would come to Jerusalem to worship and celebrate Passover at the Temple. He had to find Jesus again. He was sure something else would happen today. He remembered Jesus had seemed particularly focused on the Temple. Sure enough, as he got closer, he could see Jesus and his group of disciples walking with a sense of purpose towards the Temple. While it looked magnificent, the place stunk of animals and blood. The noise was deafening, cows mooed, and sheep bleated. Voices were raised in anger as visitors from outside Jerusalem were scathing in their reaction to the inflated prices of buying a sacrificial animal. In fact, as Jared got closer, he heard one obviously wealthy Jew accuse one of the money-changers of being dishonest. The man had to exchange his hard-earned money for temple coins to buy an animal to sacrifice – and he was not happy with the exchange rate.

Suddenly it went deathly quiet. The entire Temple Courtyard still. Not a sound. This had only happened once before. Three years ago in fact, when Jesus had come in and told the corrupt money changers and priests to get out and let the temple be a place of prayer and worship. Some of those same people were now back here again.

In that strong authoritative voice, Jesus simply said, "Get out. This is a place of prayer and worship. You have made it a marketplace. You are a disgrace to God!" And remarkably, the same people fled as before. If anything – they ran faster than last time. Jared had heard about the first time. But now he was seeing it for himself. Amazing. Then the people who normally were not allowed into the Temple poured in. The blind, the people who could not walk properly, even the children – and he realised that even he would be welcomed. So he ran in with the others.

That was when it all began to make sense to Jared. Jesus loved everyone. You did not have to look perfect. You did not have to be perfect. Jesus loved people just like they were. In the crowd he saw hope and happiness as the unwanted people were accepted and healed by Jesus. Shouts of praise echoed through the Temple instead of the auctioneer's ringing voices. It felt right.

Some of the priests came back in and told Jesus they were unhappy with the goings on. Jesus smiled and simply said, "The Scriptures tell us that praise will come from the lips of children and toddlers." Jesus was happy with the change, and so was Jared.

A bit later he saw some wealthy Jews come over to the offering centre. He knew that rich people liked to tip their coins in so everyone could hear the sound of lots of money going down the circular shaped metal container as it rolled around to the bottom. The more you put in – the louder the sound. People often looked up to see who had put so much in. Which was just what the rich people wanted.

But then he saw a lady walk in with patches on her clothes. She was a widow. She waited patiently while the queue to the offering centre tapered off. When no-one was there and no-one appeared to notice her, she quickly darted over and placed a couple of very small coins into the centre of the bowl so that it didn't make any noise at all. She thought she had done it so not a single person had seen her.

But Jesus had. He watched carefully and then made a fascinating comment to Jared. "Just think about the difference between the wealthy givers and the widow. They won't miss what they give – they have plenty left. But she put in everything she has. She now has to rely on God to survive. That is real giving. That is what God wants, giving everything to Him."

Jared left the Temple thoughtfully that Monday of the Passover week. He had so much to think about. Jesus obviously saw the Temple as a place to worship God. He did not like the way that worship had become about money and show. He had learned that Jesus wanted all of him. Not his money. Not the rituals that seemed so loud and without meaning. Jesus just wanted him – Jared. To let God have control of his life. Jesus wanted him – just as he was.

Poor or Rich?

Sabbath

Who do you think is the richest person here?

Number these people, 1 = poorest up to 12 = richest.



Year 3, Quarter 2, Week 2, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Matthew 21:12-17, 22:15-23:36; Mark 11:15-19, 12:13-44; Luke 19:45-48, 20:20-21:4 NLT; *The Desire of Ages* p589-616; *The Bible Story* v8 p142-144

Sunday

Jesus went to the temple and, like He had done before, chased the people who were buying and selling animals out. He said, "The scriptures say, 'My Temple is a house of prayer', but you have made it a den of thieves!"

Then He healed those who were sick and spent time with the children.



The Pharisees were very angry and looking for a way to trap Jesus, they sent someone, who said to Him, "Since you are honest and teach the way of God, tell us, is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?"

Jesus asked for a coin, then showing it to the people asked them, "Whose picture is on this coin?"

"Caesar's," was the reply.

"Then give to Caesar, what is his, and give to God what belongs to God." The people were amazed at Jesus' reply.

Then the Sadducees, a group of religious leaders who didn't believe in the resurrection, sent someone to Jesus with another question. "If a man dies without children, and then his brother marries the widow, but he also, dies without children, and this continues until all seven brothers married her and then died, whose wife will she be in the resurrection?" Jesus told them, "You don't know the Scriptures, nor the power of God. Things will be different in heaven." Then He added, knowing that they didn't even believe in the resurrection, "About the resurrection, haven't you read where God calls Himself 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, even after their deaths?'"

Again, the people were amazed.

Friday

Have you ever wished you could do something big for Jesus and wondered if there is any point doing only the little things you can do?

In Luke 16:10^{CEV} Jesus said, "Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But..."

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Thursday

Fill the missing words in from these verses and then fit them in the grid.

1 Peter 5:8 NLT, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great _____, the ______. He _____ around like a _____, looking for someone to _____."

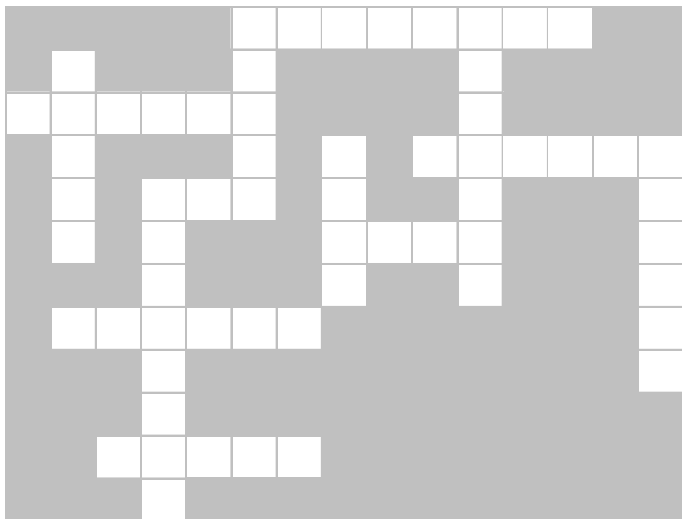
So many times, the Jewish leaders tried to trap Jesus, but every time He saw through their trap and answered in a way they could not argue against.

How was Jesus able to do this?

Luke 5:16, "But Jesus often _____ to the wilderness for _____." In Luke 6:12 Jesus spent an entire night praying and in Matthew 14:23 He spent the evening praying.

We also can do as Jesus did. In John 17:21, Jesus prayed to His Father, that we (His people) will be 'one' just as Jesus and His Father are 'One', He said, "as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. That they be in Us."

In Mark 13:11 Jesus said, "When you are arrested and stand trial, don't _____ in advance about what to _____. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be _____, but the _____." NLT



Monday

Then the Pharisees sent a teacher of religious law to ask, "Which is the most important commandment?"

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And then, love your neighbour as yourself. This sums up the entire law and writings of the prophets."

The teacher of the law commended Jesus, agreeing with Him and suggesting that this is even more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices and Jesus replied, "You are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven."

Then Jesus asked the people, "Whose son is the Messiah?"

"David's son," they said.

Jesus asked them, "Why does David write, call the Messiah, 'My Lord'? - How can the Messiah be both his son and his Lord?"

But they could not answer Him and they did not dare ask any more questions after that.

Jesus said to the people, "Watch out for these teachers of the law! They parade around in fancy robes and people admire them; they love to look important, but they cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be good by saying long prayers in public. In the end they will be severely punished."

As Jesus sat near the offering box in the Temple, He watched the crowds dropping in their money.

The rich people made a big show of putting in large amounts. Then as Jesus watched, a poor widow came and quietly dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to Him and said, "This poor widow has given more than all the others. They gave a tiny part of their extra money, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

Tuesday

What was the purpose of the Temple? What did God say when He gave them instructions to build the first Sanctuary or Tabernacle – the portable Temple. Use a NIV or NLT Bible to fill in the missing words and then solve the crossword.

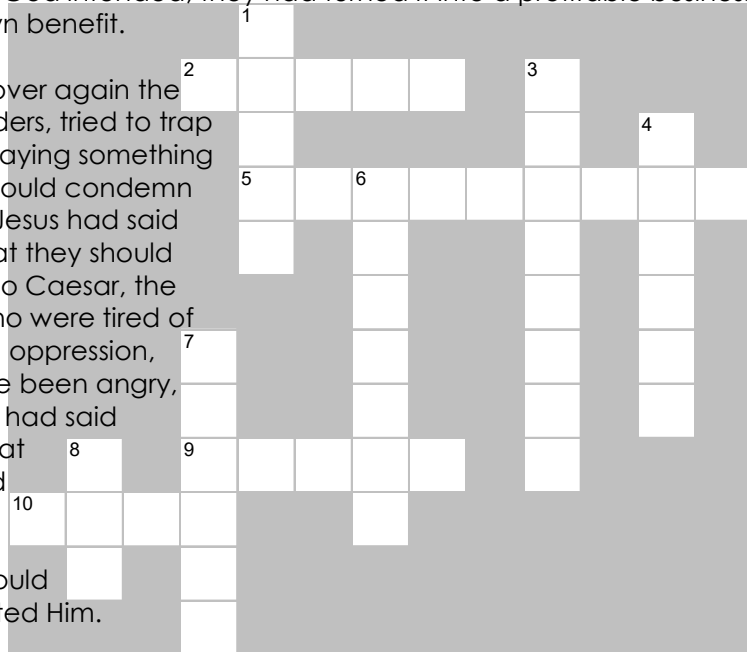
Exodus 25:8, "Then have them build me a _____ (5a) for Me, and I will dwell – live - _____ (9a) them." NIV

As He cleanses the Temple, Jesus quoted from Isaiah 56. Here God says that those who keep the Sabbath are blessed, foreigners who worship God are blessed, and even Eunuchs (who could not have children and were often the slaves or workers of foreign kings), would be blessed.

Read God's words in Isaiah 56:7. "These I will bring to My _____ (10a) _____ (3d) and give them _____ (8a) in My _____ (1d) of _____ (4d). Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My House will be called a _____ (2a) of _____ (7d) for all _____ (6d).

Instead of the Temple being a House of Prayer, and a witness to all the nations, as God intended, they had turned it into a profitable business for their own benefit.

Over and over again the Jewish leaders, tried to trap Jesus into saying something that they could condemn Him for. If Jesus had said outright that they should pay taxes to Caesar, the people, who were tired of the Roman oppression, would have been angry, but if Jesus had said outright, that they should not pay taxes, the Romans would have arrested Him.



Wednesday

Find the words from the following Bible Verses:

Mark 12:30, 31^{NLT}
**Love the Lord your
 God with all your
 heart, all your soul,
 all your mind, and
 all your strength.
 Love your
 neighbour as
 yourself.**

2 Corinthians 9:7^{NIV}
**God loves a
 cheerful giver.**

C O M M A N D M E N T S T O L
 I G O D V E W B Y C O M L M A
 N O D M E M I N D N T S O T O
 L D I V E B T Y C Y O U R O M
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 R C O A N D M M A N D M E A N

Does your heart love God?

Do you live for God?

Do you think about God,
 and things God would
 likes?

Do you do your work as if
 you are working for God?

