

## Flippin' Tables Like Jesus – March 6, 2024

Intro: Our celebration of 14 years ministry. March 3, 2010. 13 people. **Stand.**  
Why? No longer felt welcome. Hands Tied. Don't Serve. Since closed.  
FMW – all welcome. Focus on God. Building relationship w/Him.

Allowing all people a place to worship... welcome... witness is important.  
Church should be accessible. Hindrances in the way makes Jesus angry.  
Angry enough to flip some tables. Infamous **Temple Tantrum**.

Happened 1 or 2? 1st @ beginning of His ministry - **John 2**

And on Palm Sunday (**Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48**).

- 3 relate same story – Jesus enters the temple, overturns money changers tables, benches of those selling doves. *“My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.”*
  - Is it selling stuff in the temple? Merchants making \$ off the pilgrims; is that why He's angry?

**We can know why He's angry b/c in 1 sentence he quotes 2 Scriptures.**

- quotes 2 Old Testament passages: **Jeremiah 7:11** & **Isaiah 56:7**.
- **Jeremiah 7:11** – “Has this house which bears My Name become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching, declares the LORD.”
- **Den of Robbers** – show of the trophies.
  - In context, it's a warning to those who come to worship the Lord:  
**Jer. 7:9-11** – “Will you steal & murder, commit adultery & perjury, burn incense to Baal & follow other gods you have not known, & 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? **11** Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?”
    - Jeremiah warned about **living one way**, then go to Temple . . . now you expect God's protection? His blessings?
    - Temple/Church – place to know God . . . how He wants His followers to live. Differently. Treat people right.
      - **What got Jesus angry?** Living 1 way on Sabbath...hypocrisy.  
Den of Robbers - should be a Hospital for the Hurting. Place: All are welcome. Compassion/shown. Love/Learned.

- Now look at what Jesus quotes from Isaiah -

- **Isaiah 56:7** – “I will bring them to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar, for My house will be called a *house of prayer for all the nations*. The Sovereign Lord, who brings back the outcasts of Israel, says: I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel.”
  - **GOD:** all are welcome. Let all come to Me. Anyone!
    - **Is. 56:3** – “Don’t let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say, ‘The Lord will never let me be part of his people.’”
- Jerusalem Temple had **4 courts**: Ct of the Gentles - Court of Women - Court of Men - Court of Priests. **Market** in outermost **Court-Gentiles**, only place non-Jews (unclean/impure) could be.
- If this is a market, they can’t worship... draw close & know God.
  - Why is Jesus angry? **He’s standing up for you & me, dear Gentile.**
  - **Jesus is flippin’ tables b/c: making God inaccessible** to people.

**Warning:** Jesus was angry with the religious establishment (Sadducees),  
 - the teachers of the law (Pharisees) - religious people...like you and me.

Jesus was never angry with sinners for being sinners.

Jesus didn’t get upset when people came to Him for healing.

Jesus didn’t mind children being playful, loud.

Jesus didn’t preach against Gov’t (Rome/Emperor). Kingdom/not of this world

Jesus didn’t get upset over what people wore in the synagogue... the volume of the music... where they sat... what they sang...

Let’s own it: The stuff that ticks us off didn’t matter at all to Jesus.

**Here** – anyone is welcome. Open the Bible... know God. Encourage each other . . . Witness/Praise. Worship. 14 years. More!

Song of the week: **“This Is the Place”**- Gaiter Vocal Band