

# Easter Series: The Last Week of Jesus. Day 2 The Priest Comes to His Temple

## Mark 11:15-19



*Mark 11:15-19  
Then they came  
to Jerusalem.  
And He entered  
the temple and  
began to drive  
out those who  
were buying  
and selling in  
the temple, and  
overturned the*

*tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; 16 and He was not permitting anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. 17 And He began to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a robbers' den." 18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching. 19 And when evening came, they were going out of the city.*

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**1) The Coming Priest Brings Cleansing.** As Jesus enters the temple complex, He is immediately greeted by a shameful scene. The priesthood in His day had developed an elaborate scheme to extort money from the people for the sake of lining their own greedy pockets. Because of this, Jesus's first order of business as Priest is to do some house cleaning. Everything in the temple complex that brought shame to the house of God was driven out, overturned, and not allowed in His presence. This is the work of the Priest to bring cleansing in the dwelling place of God. As Christians, God has made His dwelling in the body of every believer. For God to dwell in us means someone has to purify us

first. Jesus as Priest cleanses the sinner from all impurity and all shame so that we can become the dwelling place of God.

**2) The Coming Priest Brings Correction.** After Jesus cleanses the temple, He speaks a word of correction to the people. Jesus makes known what God requires and tells the people how they fell short of this requirement. This correction explains the cleansing. It is one thing for the Priest to cleanse the temple, but it is another thing for the people to know that they are to keep the temple clean. As Christians we have a Priest in Jesus that brings correction in our lives so that we can keep ourselves pure and in a right standing before God. Jesus as Priest makes us clean and helps keep us clean, but we are called to participate with Him in correcting the things in our lives that may bring shame to the dwelling place of God.

**3) The Coming Priest Brings Conviction.** After Jesus speaks His word of correction, that word elicited two different responses: some rejected it and some accepted it. This is what conviction does in the heart of every person. Conviction calls into view what is wrong in our lives and how we are to correct it, but we are left to respond to it. Not everyone will receive the work that Jesus offers as humanity's mediator before God and man. The conviction that Jesus brings as Priest into the world can either be resisted or accepted. Our response to the conviction of Jesus will determine whether we benefit from Jesus's work as Priest or whether we miss out on everything He offers for our lives.