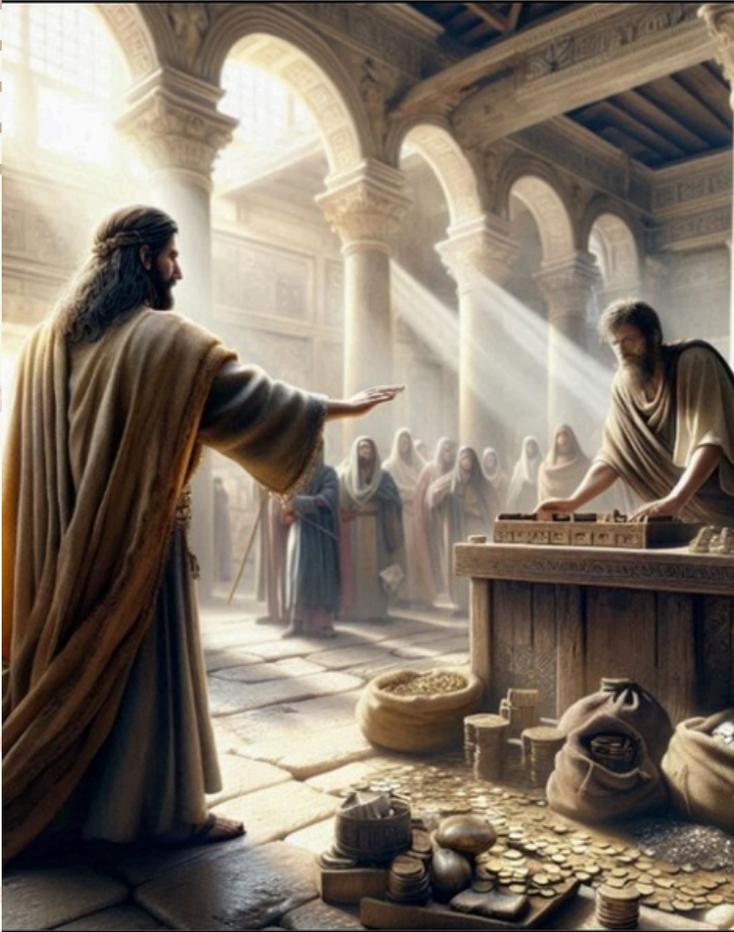


# Cleansing Monday



- (1) Matthew 21.17.
- (2) Matthew 21.18.
- (3) Mark 11.12-14.
- (4) Luke 19.46.
- (5) Mark 11.18.
- (6) Luke 21.37.
- (7) Mark 11.20.
- (8) Mark 11.22-25.
- (9) Acts 12.5.

Cleansing Monday. The next day was Yom Sheni, the second day of the week (which we call Monday). After his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, Jesus and his twelve disciples returned to Bethany to spend the night.(1) They left early in the morning to return to Jerusalem.(2) On the way, Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree. He cursed the tree because it had no fruit.(3) After they arrived at Jerusalem, Jesus drove the mercenaries out of the temple, explaining, "My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers."(4) The popularity of His teaching in the temple scared the temple leaders who continued to plot his death.(5) So, he and his disciples left Jerusalem to spend the night on the Mount of Olives (Bethany was on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives).(6) The next morning, Peter saw the fig tree Jesus had cursed, withered from the roots.(7) Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" Jesus sensed another opportunity to shape Peter's soul and explained, "Have faith in God...Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."(8) Thus, Jesus taught Peter about the power of prayer. And, as we shall see, prayer was instrumental later when Peter escaped from prison.(9)

This account is an excerpt from  
*Solid Saint: How Peter Became a Rock*

