

I Can't Believe This Is the Temple

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Introduction

Imagine you are living in the time of Jesus, and you are in Jerusalem for the Passover festival. You take your family to the Temple of the LORD as required by the festival, and you are prepared to participate in all the rituals that are ascribed by the priests. You know all the rules. You are completely prepared for every eventuality. Then suddenly something happens, and everything changes. Perhaps, this is what it would be like:

Cast

Child 1, Child 2, Parent 1, Parent 2, off-camera voice

Script

Parent 1 Okay, family. It is time to go to the Temple

Child 1 Ah, do we have to? It's always so crowded at the Temple

Parent 1 Well, it is crowded because this is the Passover festival, and people from all over Judea and Samaria are here to worship the LORD

Child 2 And it always smells funny.

Parent 1 Well, it smells like incense, because we are raising our prayers to the LORD.

Child 1 It also smells like animals being burned.

Parent 1 That is because of the sacrifices we make to the LORD, giving the LORD thanks for the way he rescued our ancestors from Egypt long ago. Look, here we are. The Temple.

(family arrives at the Temple)

Parent 2 I can't believe this is the Temple

Parent 1 Remember kids, we are to focus on all the songs we hear, and we should be joyful that we have to support the LORD's Temple and we should be grateful we get to sacrifice an animal to the LORD.

(family goes to the money-changers)

Parent 1 Let's hurry up and exchange our coins.

Child 1 Why do we have to exchange our money anyway?

Child 2 Yeah, everyone is grouchy in this line.

(off camera voice) "But it was 2 for 4 last year, why did the exchange rate change this year?"

Parent 2 I can't believe this is the Temple

Parent 1 Remember Kids, the Roman money we use in daily life is impure, and not acceptable to the LORD

(Family goes to the tax collectors)

Parent 1 Let's stand in line to pay our Temple Tax.

Child 1 Why do we need to pay the Temple Tax anyway?

Child 2 Yeah, look at all the grouchy people in this line.

(Off camera voice) "But I won't have enough left for my family to get a lamb for the sacrifice!"

Parent 2 I can't believe this is the Temple

Parent 1 Remember Kids, this is why we brought enough for the Tax. We have to support the Temple. If we don't, the LORD will know, and our sacrifice won't be acceptable.

(family goes to buy their sacrificial lamb)

Parent 1 Let's get in line to buy our lamb for the sacrifice.

Child 1 Why do we buy a lamb, wasn't one from our flock good enough??

Child 2 Yeah, look at all the grouchy people in this line.

(Off camera voice) "At least let me keep my lamb for the marketplace at home!"

Parent 2 I can't believe this is the Temple

Parent 1 Remember, kids, this is why we didn't bring a lamb from our flock at home. The priests have lambs that are already approved for sacrifice. Anything that might be impure from outside the Temple is not allowed.

(off camera – loud crash of drums and cymbals)

ALL: AAHHHH!!!!

(Off camera voice) "My Temple Shall be a House of Prayer! But you have turned it into a den of thieves."

Child 1 Um, he looks angry.

Child 2 Isn't he the same guy from that parade yesterday?

Parent 2 I can't believe this is the Temple.

Parent 1 Remember kids, this is why we don't support any rabble rousing.

Parent 2 Oh stuff it ... Remember what Micah told us, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Let's go.