



**SPRINGCREEK  
CHURCH**

2660 Belt Line Road  
Garland, TX 75044  
972.494.5683 (LOVE)  
springcreekchurch.org

## **SEVEN DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

### **The Day The Tables Turned**

Senior Pastor Keith Stewart

March 01, 2026

This Sunday we're continuing our series, Seven Days that Changed the World, with a message called "The Day the Tables Turned." We'll look at the moment Jesus entered the temple and made room again for prayer, healing, and people who felt pushed to the margins. It's a story that reveals God's heart for outsiders, the vulnerable, and anyone trying to find their way back to Him. If you've ever felt disillusioned by religion—or simply hungry for something real—come join us.

---

*Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.*

Matthew 21:12-14

## **1. SEEING THE TEMPLE IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT**

"[It was] fundamentally an economic institution and indeed dominated the city's commercial life."

- Ched Myers, *Binding the Strong Man*

"The temple was... the economic center of Jerusalem. An estimated eighty percent of Jerusalem's employment was dependent on the temple." - Robert Hamerton-Kelly, *The Gospel and the Sacred: Poetics of Violence in Mark*

"When the revolutionaries took over the Temple at the start of the war [in 66 AD], one of the first acts was to burn the records of debts. The unpopularity of the ruling class at this time is well documented, and the widespread dislike of them meant that the first-century Temple, and particularly the way in which it was being run, came in for regular criticism."

- N.T. Wright, *Jesus*

## **2. THE TEMPLE RACKET**

*But if that place that I choose is too distant and you have been blessed by the Lord your God, and you cannot carry your tithe because the place where the Lord will choose to put his name is so far away, then exchange your tithe for silver and take the silver with you and go to the place the Lord your God will choose. Then use the silver to buy whatever you like, cattle,*

*sheep, wine or other fermented drink or anything you wish and make an offering to the Lord. Deuteronomy 14.24-26*

“At one time the animal merchants set up their stalls across the Kidron Valley on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, but at this point they were in the temple courts, doubtless in the Court of the Gentiles (the outermost court).” – D.A. Carson

“They would exploit the worshippers. And those who sold pigeons would do likewise, charging, perhaps, \$4 for a pair of doves worth a nickel.”- Alfred Edersheim

“Woe to the house of Annas. Woe to their serpent's hiss. They are High Priests. Their sons are keepers of the treasury. Their sons-in-law are guardians of the temple and their servants beat the people with staves.” - Talmud

### **3. THE PROVOCATION THAT LEADS TO ACTION**

*...he said, “Is it not written: “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations”? But you have made it “a den of robbers.”*  
*Mark 11.17*

□ *His fiery anger directed toward those who were fleecing the flock*



*Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. Matthew 21.12*

- ❑ *His gentle compassion - healing the hurting*

#### **4. THE IMPLICATION FOR US TODAY**

- ❑ God wants to live among His people

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1.3*

*Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John 2.19-22*

*I saw no temple in the city, for its Temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. Revelation 21.22*

- ❑ Your body and mine are the new temple



“To us a single act of injustice – cheating in business, exploitation of the poor—is slight; to the prophets, a disaster. To us injustice is injurious to the welfare of the people; to the prophets it is a deathblow to existence; to us, an episode; to them, a catastrophe, a threat to the world.”

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

### Starter questions:

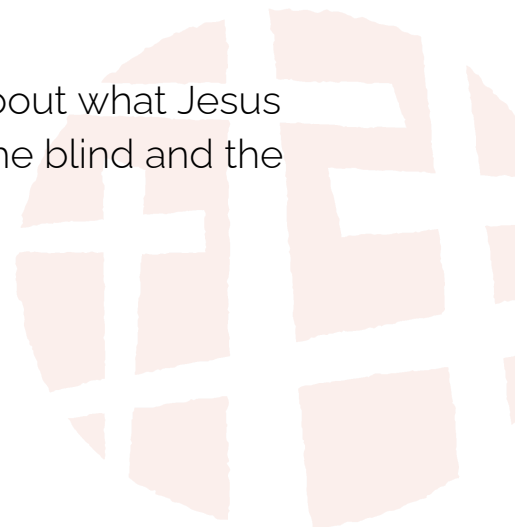
What line, image, or moment from the message stayed with you the most—and why?

When you hear “Jesus cleansed the temple,” what was your “Sunday School” understanding of that story before today?

In what ways do people today (inside or outside the church) get disillusioned by “religion”?

### Scripture and meaning:

Read Matthew 21:12–14. What stands out to you about what Jesus does and what happens immediately afterward (the blind and the lame coming to Him)?



The sermon emphasized two targets of Jesus' anger: outsiders being squeezed out and the poor being exploited. Which of those feels most challenging for you to sit with—and why?

### Heart-level application

1 Peter 4:17 says judgment begins with God's household. What's the difference between punitive judgment and corrective/refining judgment—and why does that matter for how we respond to conviction?

“Jesus' anger cleared the space; His compassion filled it.” Where do you need Jesus to clear space in your life right now (attitudes, habits, resentments, prejudices, distractions)?

The sermon said one of the worst sins is becoming an impediment to someone moving toward God. Practically speaking, what are common “roadblocks” Christians put in front of seekers today (words, assumptions, politics, tone, hypocrisy, etc.)?

Think of a person in your life who may be “pivoting” toward God. What would it look like for you to make their next step easier, not harder?

Jesus defended the vulnerable and confronted exploitation. What are modern parallels where people are profiting by taking advantage of the poor or desperate—and how should Christians respond without becoming self-righteous?

### Closing practice



Invite the group to silently ask: "Jesus, what table do You want to turn over to me?"

Then pray for two things: a more welcoming heart toward outsiders and a more compassionate posture toward the vulnerable.



