

## Luke 19:45-48

<sup>45</sup>Then Jesus entered the temple courts and began to drive out those who were selling there. <sup>46</sup>He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be a house of prayer.’ But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

<sup>47</sup>Jesus was teaching at the temple every day, but the chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were intent on killing Him. <sup>48</sup>Yet they could not find a way to do so, because all the people hung on His words.

Berean Study Bible

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1

### **Keep the main thing, the main thing. Luke 19:45-48**

Don't just clean the church, become a cleansed church. 19:45

Cleansing begins in the centre. 45 “entered the temple courts”

Cleansing is continuous. 45 “began to drive out”

Cleansing means removal. 45 “those who were selling there”

Don't just pray at church, become a praying church. 19:46

Prayer is authoritative. 46 “It is written”

Prayer is Father-focused. 46 “My house”

Prayer is confessional. 46 “But you have made it”

Don't just learn in church, become a learning church. 19:47-48

Teaching must be Christ-centred. 47 “Jesus was teaching”

Teaching must be systematic. 47 “at the temple every day”

Teaching must be bold. 47 “but the chief priests...”

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2

### **Every day can be a better day. Luke 19:45-48**

Following where my Master goes. 19:45-46

I can be in a better place every day. 45a “Jesus entered the temple courts”

I can start against the unhelpful every day. 45b, 46b “began to drive out... robbers”

I can draw on my Lord's resources... 46a “My house will be a house of prayer”

I need to be strong every day. 46b “But you have made it”

Sitting at my Master's feet. 19:47-48

I can make progress every day. 47a “teaching at the temple every day”

I will be opposed every day. 47b “but... were intent on killing Him”

I can overcome every day. 48a “they could not find a way to do so”  
I must choose well every day. 48b “because all the people hung on His words”

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3

### **Good new. Bad news. Luke 19:45-48**

First, we have good news and bad news. 19:45-46

- Good news . 45a “Jesus entered the temple courts”
- Bad news . 45b, 46b “drive out those who were selling... den of robbers”
- Good news . 46a “My house will be a house of prayer”
- Bad news . 46b “But you have made it”

Then, we have good news and bad news. 19:47-48

- Good news . 47a “teaching at the temple every day”
  - Bad news . 47b “but... were intent on killing Him”
  - Good news . 48a “they could not find a way to do so”
  - Good news . 48b “because all the people hung on His words”
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4

### **Location, location, location. Luke 19:45-48**

The position of my home. 19:45-46

- My home is where Jesus can just walk in. 45 “Jesus entered”
- My home is where there is nothing ungodly. 45 “began to drive out”
- My home is God’s home. 46 “It is written: ‘My house...’”
- My home is where I meet with God. 46 “My house will be a house of prayer”

The practice of my home. 19:47-48

- My home has God’s Word every day. 47 “Jesus was teaching... every day”
- My home is boldly Godly. 47 “intent on killing Him”
- My home is a place of lived-out purity. 48 “Yet they could not find”
- My home is a home for anybody. 48 “the people hung on His words”

My home is God’s holy temple.

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5

### **Seeing things differently. Seeing things like Jesus. Luke 19:45-48**

A different perspective on prayer. 19:45-46

Prayer is a holy place. 45 “entered the temple courts”

Prayer requires decluttering. 45 “drive out those who were selling there”

Prayer is being God’s guest. 46 “My house will be a house of prayer”

A different perspective on Bible. 19:46

The Bible is understandable. 46 “It is written”

The Bible is relational. 46 “My house will be”

The Bible is confrontational. 46 “But you have made it”

A different perspective on Jesus. 19:47-48

Jesus is always available. 47a “Jesus was teaching... every day”

Jesus is not popular. 47b “leaders... were intent on killing Him”

Jesus is worth hearing. 48 “the people hung on His words”

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## **Other possible titles**

A better direction takes me to a better destination.

Get it right. Keep it right.

If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you...

What do you think you are doing?

When you’ve got a terrible temple.

When push comes to shove!

Dealing with push, and push back.

No good deed goes unpunished.

You do not want to make God angry!

What’s the difference between emotion, attitude, and decision?

Spring cleaning

Shoot out at the OK temple

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## **Quotes and illustrations**

Quotes about cleansing

Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

If anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21

If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

#### Quotes about prayer

Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow.  
Benjamin Franklin

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused.  
C H Spurgeon

God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. E M Bounds

God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede. Oswald Chambers

All I know is that when I pray, coincidences happen; and when I don't pray, they don't happen. Dan Hayes

#### If Jesus Came To Your House

by Lois Faith Kendall Blanchard Eades, in 1956 (copyright unknown)

- 1 If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -  
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.  
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,  
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there -  
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.
- 2 But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?
- 3 Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?  
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
- 4 Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?  
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?

- Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?
- 5 Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.
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## Chronology

The following is taken directly from the free e-book, *Timeline*, chapter 39, The week before the crucifixion. This is available from [www.sermoninspiration.net](http://www.sermoninspiration.net) which is where you also obtained these notes.

### **Afternoon and evening, Saturday, 2 March 30AD**

Surrounded by cheering crowds, Jesus triumphantly rode into the city. He was hailed like a king, like a conqueror, like the Messiah Himself. He was swept along with songs of celebration. Into the city. Into the courts of the temple. The crowds were with Him. He could proclaim Himself Lord and King. He could claim the throne of His ancestor King David and establish His Kingdom on earth with Jerusalem as His royal capital. The crowds were right behind Him. He could have anything He wanted.

So, what did He do when He arrived in the throbbing heart of the city; in the very courts of the temple? He "looked around at everything in the temple courts" (Mark 11:11). Wait! That was it? Yes, that was it. This was a statement piece. Yes, He could, and would, have everything He wanted. But that did not, and could not, include a crown without the cross.

So, He looked around at everything in the temple courts, and then the crowds dissipated. We are not told what He saw, but because we do know what He did on the following morning, we can make a well-educated guess as to what He saw in the temple courts.

That evening, and the following day, was 10 Nisan in the Jewish calendar. That day was the biggest and busiest livestock market of the year. This was the day when the Passover lamb was to be selected by every Jewish household. There would be tens of thousands of people and tens of thousands of animals that would pass through the temple courts from first light on the following morning.

So, what did Jesus see; what was happening from immediately after the sun set on the Sabbath? No doubt, animal pens were being constructed; booths for the exchange of common currency into temple currency were being erected. Now that the Sabbath was over, work would probably continue throughout the night in order to be ready to meet the demands of the coming day. Little did they realise that all their commercial plans would be overthrown (yes, literally overthrown) when Jesus returned on the next morning.

But for this evening:

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve. (Mark 11:11)

Not every problem needs to be solved immediately. God is never in a hurry, and He has never been rushed for time. Every one of us is a work in progress. Take a look over all the problems in your own life. God is continuously at work, but it is only when the final day dawns that all our problems will be solved.

### Sunday 3 March 30 AD

Friday		Saturday		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
1 March		2 March		3 March		4 March		5 March		6 March		7 March	
												FULL	
8 Nisan		9 Nisan		10 Nisan		11 Nisan		12 Nisan		13 Nisan		14 Nisan	
6th day		Sabbath		1st day		2nd day		3rd day		Preparation		Passover	
6 days until		5 days until		4 days until		3 days until		2 days until		1 day until		Passover	

### Selecting the Passover lamb

The reason why this day was so significant, and so busy, has its origin in the Old Testament. While the Israelites were still slaves in Egypt, just before the Exodus:

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup> 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household... <sup>6</sup> Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. (Exodus 12:1-6 NIV-UK)

The reason why Sunday 3 March 30 AD was so important was because in the Jewish calendar the date was 10 Nisan. This is the day that every household in Israel had to obtain their lamb for the coming Passover festival.

Outside the Biblical record, the Jewish First Century historian, Josephus, informs us that there were 256,500 lambs slain at the Passover. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapter 9, Section 3).

Jesus had cleared the temple three years earlier (John 2:13-17). It was one of His first acts of public ministry. It seems that the temple had remained free from the marketing of animals, and from the exchange of currency. But now, in an act of blatant defiance, the temple authorities were about to take a stand against Jesus. They ran the temple as a business, and Jesus was costing them money. They were about to take back the temple for themselves. They would re-establish the market; they would bring back the animals; they would once again set up the tables for the money-changers. This was their Declaration of War against Jesus. This would be a fight to the death; a fight they were determined to win!

But Jesus was up to the challenge. He would do what is right. He would make His stand on God's Word. He would uphold the righteous character of the Heavenly Father. The temple was to be a place of prayer, not a den of robbers, merchants, and money grubbers.

### **Clearing the temple**

On Sunday morning, 3 March 30 AD, Jesus strode into the temple precinct. There was not going to be a discussion about business principles; nor even about the morality of right and wrong. This was the time for action!

<sup>15</sup> On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup> and He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. <sup>17</sup> So, as He taught them, 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 11:15-17)

Can you imagine the scene as chaos reigned? Lambs were turned loose from their pens. Frightened by the noise and drama, the animals were running in every direction. There were probably some people running, frightened and confused. There were probably others who cheered Him on as Jesus overthrew the machinery of bureaucracy. The temple authorities also probably went scurrying away.

"...the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching." (Mark 11:19)

### **The temple restored**

Jesus resumed His normal ministry

<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

<sup>15</sup> ...and the children were crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," (Matthew 21:14-15)

The temple had been restored to a place of prayer and praise.

### **The complaint**

This chaotic scene was more than tables overturned; it was the priest's plans overturned. How long did it take to clear away the merchants' tables; to catch and settle the thousands of animals that had been set loose? From the priests' point of view, it was certainly a long, unproductive, and unprofitable day. Only yesterday, as Jesus triumphantly entered the city, 'The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed were shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"' (Matthew 21:9). Now, those same accolades continue from the crowds. But the priests were not going to acquiesce to this state of affairs. They confronted Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes, having seen the wonders that He did and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," were indignant <sup>16</sup> and said to Him, "Do you hear what these say?" And Jesus says to them, "Yes, have you never read: 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings You have prepared for yourself praise'?" (Matthew 21:15-16)

The priests did not like having the Bible quoted to them, as God's rebuke to them. Nor were they moved by the attitude of the crowd. The priests had an agenda and they refused to be dissuaded from it.

<sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it, and they were seeking how they might destroy Him. For they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching. (Mark 11:18)

The priests had a plan to crush Jesus. What they did not realise was that Jesus also had a plan, and a timetable; and His plan actually accommodated the priest's plan.

47 And He was teaching every day in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the foremost of the people were seeking to destroy Him. 48 And they did not find what they might do; for all the people are listening, hanging on His words. (Luke 19:47-48)

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### Parallel accounts

John records only the first clearing of the temple, which occurred during the Passover week, in 27 AD. Matthew, Mark, and Luke, record only the second clearing of the temple in the week before Passover, 30 AD.

Matthew 21:12–17	Mark 11:15–19	Luke 19:45-48	John 2:13–25
Second clearing	Second clearing	Second clearing	First clearing
<p><sup>12</sup>Then Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there.</p> <p>He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves.</p> <p><sup>13</sup>And He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be called a</p>	<p><sup>15</sup>When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began to drive out those who were buying and selling there.</p> <p>He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves.</p> <p><sup>16</sup>And He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.</p> <p><sup>17</sup>Then Jesus began to teach them, and He declared, “Is it not written: ‘My</p>	<p><sup>45</sup>Then Jesus entered the temple courts and began to drive out those who were selling there.</p> <p><sup>46</sup>He declared to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be a house of prayer.’</p>	<p><sup>13</sup>When the Jewish Passover was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers seated at their tables.</p> <p><sup>15</sup>So He made a whip out of cords and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle. He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those selling doves He</p>



<p>house of prayer.’ But you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”</p> <p><sup>14</sup>The blind and the lame came to Him at the temple, and He healed them. <sup>15</sup>But the chief priests and scribes were indignant when they saw the wonders He performed and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”</p> <p><sup>16</sup>“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked. “Yes,” Jesus answered. “Have you never read: ‘From the mouths of children and infants You have ordained praise’?”</p> <p><sup>17</sup>Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where He spent the night.</p>	<p>house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”</p> <p><sup>18</sup>When the chief priests and scribes heard this, they looked for a way to kill Him. For they were afraid of Him, because the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.</p> <p><sup>19</sup>And when evening came, Jesus and His disciples went out of the city.</p>	<p>But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”</p> <p><sup>47</sup>Jesus was teaching at the temple every day, but the chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were intent on killing Him. <sup>48</sup>Yet they could not find a way to do so, because all the people hung on His words.</p>	<p>said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn My Father’s house into a marketplace!”</p> <p><sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”</p> <p><sup>18</sup>On account of this, the Jews demanded, “What sign can You show us to prove Your authority to do these things?”</p> <p><sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.”</p> <p><sup>20</sup>“This temple took forty-six years to build,” the Jews replied, “and You are going to raise it up in three days?”</p> <p><sup>21</sup>But Jesus was speaking about the temple of His body.</p> <p><sup>22</sup>After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.</p> <p><sup>23</sup>While He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the signs He was doing and believed in His name. <sup>24</sup>But Jesus did not entrust</p>
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			Himself to them, for He knew them all. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man.
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Matthew 146 words, Mark 129 words, Luke 81 words, John 242 words.

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## Music and songs

### Songs based on this text

Put your hand in the hand... where a Carpenter cleared the temple, HCJ 36

### Songs about God's temple

Heaven is in my heart... We are a temple for His throne, Ot 31

We, we are God's people... Now we are His temple filled, Ot 6

### Songs about cleansing

Don't go away without Jesus... cleanse from your heart every sin,

Everything that has breath, Praise the Lord... washed and cleansed within

Father, Father of all things... Jesus, cleanse us Your people, SiS 275

God can do anything but fail... He can save, He can cleanse, CWH 45

Have you been to Jesus... Are you washed in the blood, H 640

He paid a debt He did not owe... cleansed my soul and set me free,

I'm forgiven. He cleansed my from my sin, (Omartin etc)

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God... cleansed by His blood (Gaither)

It's Your blood that cleanses me, SiS 566

Only by Grace... Thanks to Your Grace we are cleansed, 408

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within, 657

Replace it with Your love... cleanse every part,

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood, H 705

### Songs about Jesus changing things

Change my heart, oh God

There's gonna be a better day (Harrington, but with Duncan alterations)

### Songs about prayer

Before You I kneel / Workers' prayer

Down in the valley to pray

I'm praying for you, Ot 33

O you must pray every day

Prayer (Petra)

Let us pray (S C Chapman)

What a friend we have in Jesus... take it to the Lord in prayer. H 421

Whisper a prayer in the morning, CWH 85

With a prayer... Love incarnate, Ot 38

Songs about Jesus' teaching

Teach my Thy way O Lord, H Ch 262

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### **Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion**

1. What is an example of an object being designed for one purpose, but used for, or modified for, another purpose? (eg. a screwdriver used as a hammer).
2. Draw a matrix of Urgent / Non-urgent; Important / Non-important. Which quadrant was Jesus in when He acted first (v45), then explained later (v46). Why was that the most appropriate quadrant?

Urgent and Important	Important but not urgent
Urgent but unimportant	Unimportant and not urgent

3. Whose house was the temple? (Psalm 93:5, Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11) But Jesus called the temple, "My house". Explain why there is no contradiction between the Old and New Testaments.
  4. Jesus called the temple "a den of robbers" (v46) List everyone who was being robbed, and of what they were being robbed. Is it possible for church to be a den of robbers?
  5. Jesus called the temple "a house of prayer" (v46) but praying was not what Jesus was doing there (v47a). Explain why prayer, and Jesus' teaching, are not contradictory.
  6. Today, we are the temple of God. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 6:16) Based on Luke 19:45-48 how can we ensure that we are God's House?
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