

John 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

Analysis

In the temple, Jesus finds 'those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting.' This commerce served legitimate religious need—pilgrims needed animals for sacrifice and temple currency for offerings. Yet the location (apparently in the Court of Gentiles) and exploitation had corrupted the temple's purpose. Jesus sees not just religious activity but religious corruption.

Historical Context

The Court of Gentiles, the temple's outer area, had become a marketplace. Money changers exchanged Roman currency (with graven images) for temple shekels. While these services were necessary, they had become exploitative—prices were inflated, and the space meant for Gentile worship was commercialized.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can legitimate religious activities become corrupted and exploitative?

2. What 'temple marketplaces' exist in contemporary Christianity that might grieve Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὗρεν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τοὺς πωλοῦντας βόας καὶ
And found in the temple those that sold oxen And
G2532 G2147 G1722 G3588 G2411 G3588 G4453 G1016 G2532

πρόβατα καὶ περιστερὰς καὶ τοὺς κερματιστὰς
sheep And doves And G3588 the changers of money
G4263 G2532 G4058 G2532 G2773

καθημένους
sitting
G2521

Additional Cross-References

Mark 11:15 (Temple): And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

Mark 11:17 (Parallel theme): And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.