

# John 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

## Analysis

Jesus makes a whip of cords and drives out the sheep, oxen, and money changers. This deliberate, forceful action demonstrates righteous anger—not loss of control but intentional prophetic action. The whip, fashioned on site, shows premeditation. Christ's gentleness does not preclude appropriate confrontation of evil. The one who would be led as a lamb to slaughter first acts as shepherd driving out those who corrupt the flock.

## Historical Context

This temple cleansing occurs early in John's Gospel (a second may occur later, per synoptic accounts). Prophets like Jeremiah had condemned temple corruption. Jesus' action fulfilled Malachi 3:1-3, where the Lord would suddenly come to His temple to purify. The violence was targeted at commerce, not persons—sheep and oxen were driven out.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' temple cleansing inform our understanding of righteous anger?
2. When is confrontation of religious corruption appropriate and how should it be conducted?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ποιήσας φραγέλλιον ἐκ σχοινίων πάντας  
And when he had made a scourge of small cords them all  
G2532 G4160 G5416 G1537 G4979 G3956

ἐξέβαλεν ἐκ τοῦ ἱεροῦ τά τε πρόβατα καὶ τοὺς  
he drove of the temple and the sheep And G3588  
G1544 G1537 G2411 G5037 G4263 G2532

βόας καὶ τῶν κολλυβιστῶν ἐξέχεεν τὸ κέρμα καὶ  
the oxen And G3588 the changers poured out G3588 money And  
G1016 G2532 G2855 G1632 G2772 G2532

τὰς τραπέζας ἀνέστρεψεν  
the tables overthrew  
G3588 G5132 G390

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