

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

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

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	G3588	the temple	G3588	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						
G3588	the tables	overthrew						
	G5132	G390						

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