

# John 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

## Analysis

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To dove-sellers, Jesus commands: 'Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.' The possessive 'my Father's house' claims unique sonship—the temple is His family's property. The merchants may have been providing needed services, but their method corrupted the temple's purpose. Commerce had displaced worship; profit had replaced prayer. Jesus restores the temple's true function.

## Historical Context

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The dove merchants were distinct from cattle sellers—doves were poor people's offerings (Leviticus 5:7). Jesus' command recognizes their services but demands removal of commercial activity from sacred space. Jeremiah had called the temple a 'den of robbers' (Jeremiah 7:11); Jesus echoes this prophetic tradition.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' claim of 'my Father's house' reveal about His self-understanding?
2. How do we distinguish between appropriate church activities and corrupting commercialism?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ τοῖς τὰς περιστερὰς πωλοῦσιν εἶπεν Ἐρατε  
And G3588 G3588 doves unto them that sold said Take  
G2532 G4058 G4453 G2036 G142

ταῦτα ἐντεῦθεν μὴ ποιεῖτε τὸν οἶκον τοῦ πατρός  
these things hence not make G3588 an house G3588 Father's  
G5023 G1782 G3361 G4160 G3624 G3962

μου οἶκον ἐμπορίου  
my an house of merchandise  
G3450 G3624 G1712

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 7:11** (Parallel theme): Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

**Matthew 21:13** (Parallel theme): And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

**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.

**Luke 2:49** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?