

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

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

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

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

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

καὶ	τοῖς	τὰς	περιστερὰς	πωλοῦσιν	εἶπεν	Ἄρατε	
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

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?