

Mark 11:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,

Analysis

They come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple—Jesus returns to Jerusalem after the temple cleansing (11:15-18), boldly walking in the very place He had disrupted. **There come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders**—This represents the Sanhedrin's full leadership: chief priests (high priest and priestly aristocracy controlling temple operations), scribes (legal experts and Torah interpreters), and elders (respected laymen from prominent families). Their united delegation signaled official interrogation. The confrontation was inevitable—Jesus had overturned money-changers' tables, driven out merchants, and accused them of making God's house a den of robbers. This directly challenged temple system corruption, threatening both religious authority and economic interests.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin was Judaism's supreme council (71 members) ruling on religious law, criminal justice, and civil governance under Roman oversight. Chief priests included Caiaphas and leading priestly families (predominantly Sadducees). Scribes were Torah scholars, mostly Pharisees. Elders represented wealthy lay families. This diverse coalition—theological adversaries united by perceived threat—confronted Jesus together. The temple was Second Temple Judaism's heart—religious, economic, political. Its Court of the Gentiles had been converted into an exploitative marketplace.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's boldness in returning to the temple after confrontation teach about courageous witness?
2. How do religious systems become corrupted when spiritual authority mingles with economic interests and political power?
3. Why did the religious establishment perceive Jesus as a threat?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔρχονται	πάλιν	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα	καὶ	ἐν	τῷ
And	there come	again	to	Jerusalem	And	in	G3588
G2532	G2064	G3825	G1519	G2414	G2532	G1722	
ἱερῷ	περιπατοῦντος	αὐτὸν	ἔρχονται	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	οἱ	
the temple	was walking	as he	there come	to	as he	G3588	
G2411	G4043	G846	G2064	G4314	G846		
ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	γραμματεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	πρεσβύτεροι	
the chief priests	And	G3588	the scribes	And	G3588	the elders	
G749	G2532		G1122	G2532		G4245	
