

Background Scriptures: John 2:13-25;
Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48
Print Passages: John 2:13-25



L8 Unjust Commerce

REFLECT

Darius's parents bailed him out later that evening. Darius was fuming with fury, and so was Alonzo. The parents had a difficult time trying to calm them both down.

"Why did they arrest me and not Jake?!" Darius screamed furiously.

"It's not fair that Jake didn't go to jail. He started it. We have to do something, Dad!" Alonzo commented.



Darius was so emotional and angry that he kicked the stool in the kitchen and sent it spiraling across the room, saying, "When I see Jake at school tomorrow, I'm gonna give him a taste of what I gave him today."

Dad spoke up, "Whoa, hold on now. You will not go to school and pick a fight, only to be put right back in jail. Your mom and I spoke with the police in charge, and he will drop the charges considering the circumstances. So, it's over. Put this thing behind you."

Later that evening, Alonzo went to his brother's room to talk. "So, what are you gonna do, Darius?" he asked.

"You heard Dad. It's over," Darius blurted. Alonzo could tell that Darius was still furious, making him want to take up Darius's case. He returned to his room and tried to think of ways to "get revenge on Jake." But everything he thought of would only cause more chaos and possibly more jail time. So, he began to focus on why God allowed this to happen.

"God, sometimes I don't understand You. Why would You put an innocent person in jail? His arrest is on social media, and Darius will be humiliated. Why, God? We go to church every Sunday. We participate in worship service and Sunday school and Darius is a junior usher. I feel like You let us down. I don't understand why we serve You if You don't have our backs."

Alonzo fell asleep with Darius's words on his mind: "It's over."

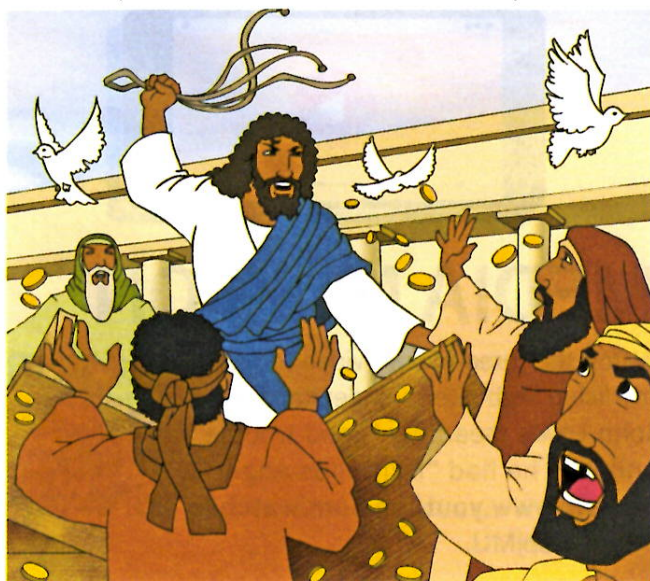


To those who sold doves [Jesus] said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" (John 2:16)



John 2:13-25

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. **15** So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16** To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" **17** His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." **18** The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." **20** They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" **21** But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. **23** Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. **24** But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. **25** He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.



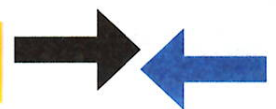
INTERSECT

JESUS IS USUALLY DESCRIBED AS MEEK AND HUMBLE. However, in this lesson, we see a very different Jesus. Jesus was angry. This event at the Temple was remembered and recorded in all four gospels (see John 2:13-25; Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; and Luke 19:45-48). Seeing Jesus so angry had an impact on the disciples. This may have been the first time they had seen Jesus angry enough to construct a whip and flip over tables.

The Passover event in Jerusalem is one of the most celebrated Jewish events. We spoke of it in lesson 6. Jesus was just twelve years old when He attended this annual event and was separated from His parents. Now, He was in His early thirties. Jesus had much respect for this holy event, especially at His Father's Temple. It infuriated Jesus to see this event turn into something that distracted the people from worshipping God for delivering them from death. It disturbed Jesus to see the Temple courts turn into a marketplace where things were being sold, and many owners were unfairly selling their products.

Jesus' anger was justified. These people were defiling the house of the Lord. Jesus kicked them all out. He cleansed the Temple. The religious leaders thought that Jesus had no right or authority. What they did not know is what we learned in lesson 7. Jesus is greater than the Temple. He has authority over all because His Father created it all.

Inside Out



Respond to the thought-provoking comments and questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What festival was Jesus attending when He turned over the tables due to anger?
2. What does this annual festival represent? Why is it celebrated?
3. Where is this annual festival held? (At the _____ in _____.)
4. The Temple was built, rebuilt, and renovated. Name who built the first Temple and who destroyed it. Who rebuilt the Temple? Who renovated the Temple to make it larger and grander?
5. Explain in your own words if you felt that Jesus was justified for His anger.



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Jesus was angry because He felt that the people were disrespecting God by doing disrespectful things in the Temple. He knew that the Temple was built to worship and honor God.

In today's church, we, too, get caught up with selling products in the church—so much so that we forget that we came there to worship God. A lesson to learn from this passage is that it is okay to get angry. What's important is whether it is good and righteous anger. Then how do we handle the anger? Jesus had a secret weapon (God) with Him when He was whipping and flipping tables. Be careful when you become angry. Is it righteous anger? Calm down, control it, and allow your secret weapon (God) to guide you to the next steps.



CONNECT

"Righteous anger" reminds me of John Lewis' famous statement, "Good trouble." His entire quote is, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble." He meant that fighting for voting rights and equality landed him in trouble and jail. He considered this good and necessary trouble. You may be angry because you see injustice in your school or community demonstrated by more being done for the privileged than the underprivileged. This is good anger, and you may want to take action to address it. Discuss it with the proper people, and be cautious that your righteous anger could get you into good trouble.

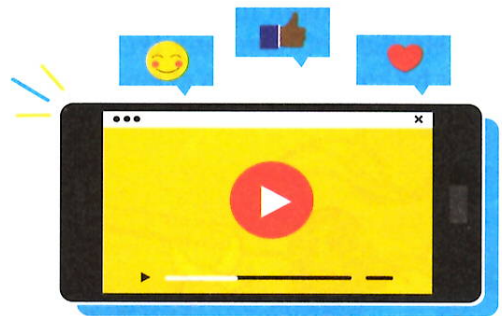


STEPPING OUT!

Let's role-play. After the situation is set, you are to respond first by demonstrating "destructive" responses. Then, role-play again and respond with "constructive" responses. Here's the situation:

A student who is not so popular at school is constantly bullied. He is also underprivileged. You and your team approach when you hear the bullies threaten the student by saying, "Leave this school. You don't belong here. Go back to your country!"

How do you respond?



MEDIA MISSION

Watch the three-minute video found at the listed Web site to understand what John Lewis meant by "good trouble" and why he had "righteous anger":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbtr6R8pjMU>.

