



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

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4 – SOSJ- The Tough Jesus Saturday, July 27, 2024

MARK 11:15-19

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’[a]? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’[b] The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples[c] went out of the city.

Questions

1. What was Jesus' motivation for cleansing the Temple in Mark 11:15-19, and what does this action reveal about his priorities and values?
2. What symbolic significance does the overturning of tables and driving out of animals from the Temple courtyard hold in Mark 11:15-16?
3. How do the religious leaders' reactions to Jesus' actions in Mark 11:18 reflect their growing hostility towards him, and what consequences does this have for Jesus' ministry?
4. In what ways does Jesus' Temple cleansing serve as a model for modern-day followers of the "Tough Jesus" who seek to challenge injustice and promote spiritual renewal in their own contexts?