

Jesus clears the temple

When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the temple area. He began chasing out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He would not allow anyone to carry items for sale through the temple courtyards.



Then He taught them. He told them, "It is written that the Lord said, "'My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray.' (Isaiah 56:7) But you have made it a 'den for robbers.'"(Jeremiah 7:11)

The Pharisees saw what Jesus did and it made them really angry. They wanted to know who in the world He thought He was.

(It's a bit like if you were at school and you broke in line, and another kid came up and told you that you had to stay after school for that. You might say to him, "Who do you think you are telling me that I have to go to stay after school? You're just a kid!")

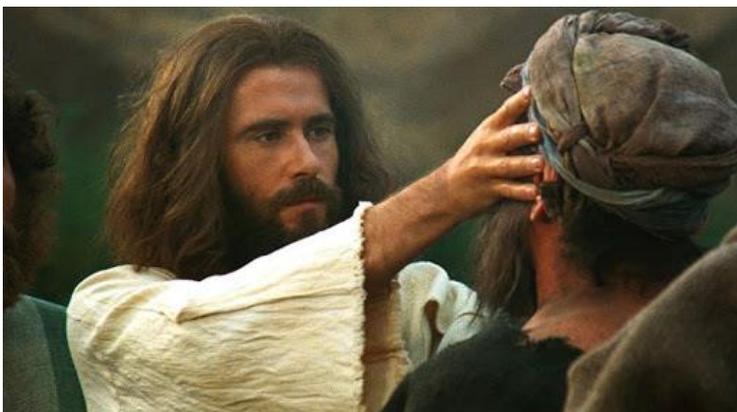
That's exactly how the Pharisees felt. They wanted to know why Jesus thought He had the right, or the authority, to clear out the Temple. (Truthfully, it was the Pharisees' job to do this. They should have been making sure the Temple was treated the right way.)

Then the Jews asked Him, "What miraculous sign can you show us? Can you prove Your authority to do all of this?"

Jesus gave them a very strange answer. He told them: Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.

The Jewish leaders said to Him, "This temple has been under construction for 46 years, and you are going to raise it up in 3 days?" But Jesus was not talking about the Temple they were standing in. He was talking about the temple of His own body. Jesus declared that the temple would be destroyed and that He would rebuild it in three days. The Jews were thinking of the temple of stone, but Jesus was referring to His body.

The Pharisees demanded a "sign." Jesus did not show them a sign right then and there. Instead, He spoke to them about the **ULTIMATE SIGN** that was about to come. In less than a week, God would raise Him from the dead; that would certainly prove that He had God's authority. But the Pharisees did not understand what Jesus was talking about.



After Jesus had completely cleaned out the Temple, He began to teach the many people who listened to Him. He healed illnesses, and children praised His name. The chief priests and the Pharisees became more and more angry. They were afraid and jealous of Jesus, because many people were amazed by His teaching. People were following Jesus instead of following the Pharisees. When evening came, Jesus left the city.