

THE CHOSEN

Title:	Season / Episode:	Location (hh:mm:ss)	Study by:
JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE	SEASON 5 / EPISODE 3	00:05:50–00:08:15	SARAH TAYLOR FIRST METHODIST CHURCH CYNTHIANA, KENTUCKY SARAH_T@YMAIL.COM



Theme

Worship, God's Holiness, Jesus' Lordship

Objective

Students will learn that worship is sacred because God's presence deserves honor, not personal gain or performance.

Warm Up

A Fresh Look at Sacred Space – Take students on a short walk through your worship area. Encourage them to quietly observe the space from different perspectives. Let them sit in places they don't normally sit, look at the symbols, art, or stained glass, and flip through hymnals or Bibles. Ask them to notice details that represent God's presence or people's worship.

- What did you notice today that you hadn't before?
- How do you feel when you step into this space?
- Do you think this space reflects who God is? Why or why not?
- How can the way we treat this space show honor to God?

Transition

In *The Chosen*, Jesus and His followers have just entered Jerusalem for Passover. The crowds are celebrating Him with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" But as Jesus enters the Temple, joy turns to grief.

He sees worship being twisted for profit, vendors exploiting pilgrims, money changers overcharging, and religious leaders allowing it all.

Jesus' response isn't random anger; it's righteous passion for God's holiness. He overturns tables, drives out animals, and calls His Father's house back to what it was meant to be: a place of prayer.

The Clip

Before showing the clip, have your group read John's account of what happened (**Luke 19:45-46, John 2:13-22**).

Play the clip "[Jesus Cleanses The Temple](#)" from Season 5, Episode 3 of *The Chosen*.

Discuss:

- What do you think the disciples were thinking as this happened?
- How do you imagine the Pharisees felt seeing Jesus act this way?
- If you were in the crowd, what would your reaction have been?
- What do you think motivated Jesus' actions in that moment?

Transition

Jesus was declaring His total allegiance to God the Father and showing His unique authority to act in the Temple. He knew His words and actions would cause controversy, but He cared more about true worship than public approval.

Bible Study

Let's look at how the Scriptures prepared the way for this moment.

Read **1 Kings 6:12-13**

- What does this passage tell us about God's expectations for His people?
- What does it reveal about His desire to be close to us?
- How does this connect to the Temple being holy space?
- What does this passage show about the connection between obedience and God's presence?

Read **Isaiah 56:3-7**

- How do these verses expand our view of who belongs in God's presence?
- How do they show God's justice and compassion?
- Why do you think Jesus quoted this passage in the Temple?
- What do these verses teach us about welcoming others into worship?

Read **Malachi 3:1-3**

- What emotions come up when you read this passage?
- What does it say about God's holiness?
- How do you see this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus' actions at the Temple?
- What do you think God wants to "refine" in our hearts today?

Wrap Up

The Temple was meant to be a holy place where people met with God. Over time, that purpose had been forgotten. Jesus' actions weren't just about cleaning out corruption; they were about restoring true worship and calling people back to God's presence.

Today, we no longer worship in a single physical temple because God's Spirit dwells in us. (**1 Corinthians 3:16**) Still, our places of worship—and our hearts—deserve the same reverence Jesus demanded in Jerusalem.

Discuss:

- What does honest, true worship look like?
- How can we make sure we're honoring God, not using worship for our own benefit?

This week, take time before worship to quiet your heart. Remember who you're meeting with and why He deserves your full attention and reverence.

His anger is justified. And as the verses in Malachi tell us, only when the Temple is cleansed, when sacrifices are made in humility and righteousness, will God draw His people near to Him.

As we enter our sanctuaries on Sunday for worship, keep in mind the holiness of the place. While God now dwells in the Temple of our hearts (**1 Corinthians 3:16**), we can honor God with our humble and true worship.