

The Four Gospels of the Bible, Cleans Temple

John 2:14-20

¹⁴ In the temple courts, He found men selling cattle...exchanging money... (NIV)

*When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. **The loan sharks were also there in full strength.***

*Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, **“Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a shopping mall!”** That’s when his disciples remembered the Scripture, “Zeal for your house consumes me.”*

*But the Jews were upset. They asked, “What credentials can you present to justify this?” Jesus answered, **“Tear down this Temple and in three days I’ll put it back together.”***

*They were indignant: “It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you’re going to rebuild it in three days?” **But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple.***
(The Message)

“Cleaning house”

...is a term sometimes used to imply a complete or all-the-way action; such as the manager that is going to “clean house” to inefficiencies or waste.

Jesus “cleans house” too – not just the physical removal of the merchantable, but to a degree, the spiritual cleaning made so by the removal of practices that are not intended for the temple.

“Cleaning house” can have several connotations; it can be the literal variety...but also something deeper and less apparent.

“...a shopping mall”

What’s wrong with a shopping mall? Like any place of money-gain or profiting, the mall represents the interest of buying and selling – and of making money. Money is man’s creation...and not God’s; hence, it has no place in terms of profiting in the place of God. Merchandising and profiting is not evil necessarily; but the practice of such “business” is not part of God’s desire for his temple. The temple is a holy place and, as such, is to be used for God’s glory and purposes...

Tear down the temple...

The temple is more than a place; each soul of God is described as a temple or holy place. The “temple” was his body (he was resurrected after three days in the tomb...). Others thought Jesus was referring to the building; but in truth, do buildings really represent the temple (or a temple)?

H. Kirk Rainer