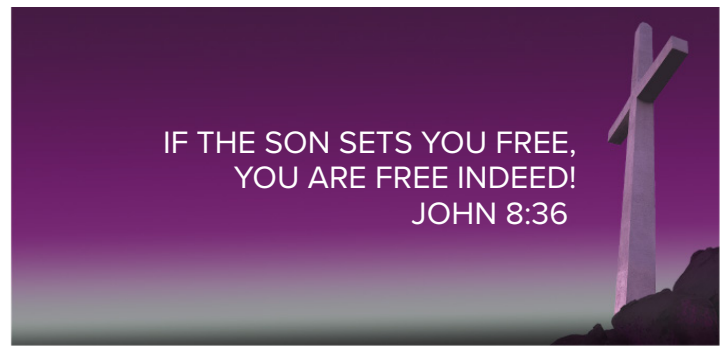


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers.” —Mark 11:15

In His righteous indignation, Jesus positioned himself in the temple court: “And He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple” (verse 16). Can you imagine Jesus with His hand up, prohibiting people from carrying goods through the temple courts? Maps of ancient Jerusalem shed light into what is going on. A shortcut, which went through the temple court of the Gentiles, had been created between the Mount of Olives and the city. If this route was not available, merchants would have to go around the temple, which was quite a big structure.

After cursing the fig tree (Mark 11:12-14), Jesus entered the temple. This time the fraud covered by the appearance of piety was too much for Him. In the only violent demonstration in all His public ministry, “He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers, and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple” (verses 15, 16). Everyone is astounded! It seems that up to approximately the year A.D. 30, the markets for the sacrificial animals were located on the Mount of Olives, and they were under the control of the Jewish ruling group. But around this time, the high priest appears to have authorized the setting up of markets in the outer courts of the temple, creating a competitive, businesslike atmosphere. Jesus drove out all who were buying and selling, and the money changers. The very place that God had designed to reveal His grace and welcome the contrite-hearted had become a sacrilegious, self-centered, crooked, businesslike, and proud institution. The ultimate blasphemy is an empty, self-sufficient, hypocritical religious system with the appearance of piety. And His authority took over. His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me” (John 2:17). Just imagine a parent defending his children, and you get the picture. God always defends the oppressed!