

Matt. 21:12-13 DEN OF ROBBERS (see also Mark 11:17, John 2:14-16, Luke 19:46 and Jer. 7:11)

Matt. 21:12-13 "And Yeshua entered the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and **overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves.** And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; **but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN.**" It's obvious here that Yeshua was very upset, but the reason is misunderstood by most. It was not acceptable for Jews to use coins with pictures on them (idols such as Caesar) in those days, so all people that came from foreign lands had to exchange their idolatrous coins into Temple shekels, which were silver coins that had nothing on them. The money exchangers here were not just exchanging foreign coins for shekels, they were charging a fee to do so. This is also what got Yeshua so upset. They were charging usury. They were profiting from others for no reason.



King Herod took all the credit for the Temple and people (tourists) came from all over the country to see this incredible structure that Herod had built. Herod had a Temple tax of 1/2 shekel for tourists to enter it. I would like to also note that the merchants were to stay back from the Temple, yet they kept getting closer and closer, another reason Yeshua made it clear the Temple was a house of prayer not a marketplace (Isa. 56:7), (not a place to make money...den of robbers). Malachi prophesied this to happen back in:

Mal. 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And Adonai, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says Adonai of hosts."

The Temple marketplace was referred to as Annas Bazaar". The family of the counterfeit High Priests used to make serious money off this marketplace in the Temple because they controlled it. It got its name when Annas (the son of Seth) was appointed high priest by Quirinius the governor of Syria in 6AD, around the time Yeshua was born (Luke 2:2).

To help understand the fullness of this verse I need to explain about the things that were taking place in those days. The Pharisees had control over the people and the temples. They took advantage of this in many ways. It was common for people to walk for miles and bring their own lamb in to be sacrificed in the Temple. It was also common for the Pharisees to inspect these animal offerings to the point where they would always find something not quite perfect enough to be acceptable. They had the power to accept and reject the animals brought in for sacrifices, and they took advantage of it. They would reject the animals brought in by individuals so that these people would be forced to buy animals from the booths the Pharisees had set up at the Temples. They in fact, made significant money doing so, robbing the people.

In those days the Temple shekel was different from all other money in the country. In order to buy something for a sacrifice, all the money had to go through a money exchanger, who would take whatever type

of money the people used, and exchange it for Temple money. During this process they would charge a percentage for the exchange. They were in fact making money on the items sold in the Temple for sacrifices, and on the money that exchanged hands for the sacrifices. This is why Yeshua called it a "Robbers Den". No one knows for sure if He objected to money changing hands in a fair manner. We cannot assume things that aren't clear.

There is another reason why Yeshua cleaned out the sin/leaven (money changers) of the temple. Do you recall that Yeshua chased the money-changers out of the temple on the tenth day. He did this because all sin was to be removed from the house, Temple of El Shaddai prior to Passover. Yeshua through the money changers (leaven) out of the Temple.

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