

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of March 17, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 21:12-17	Tuesday	Mark 11:11-19	Wednesday	Luke 19:41-48
Thursday	John 2:13-25	Friday	Jeremiah 7:3-11	Saturday	Deuteronomy 14:22-26

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Alabaster Jar*

**Next week's readings:** Matthew 26:6-13

Next week is Palm Sunday, a day when Christians remember Jesus' triumphal entry into and final week living in Jerusalem. His last week was full of collisions between his way of the cross and those who saw life differently. Join us next week for the powerful story of a woman who saw Jesus for all he was, and the controversy she caused among Jesus' disciples.



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# Group Discussion

## Connect

- Have you ever reacted to anger by damaging something?
- Have you ever gotten angry over something you knew was right?

## Learn

Read Matthew 21:12-17. Why do you think Jesus was turning over the tables?

- Who is Jesus angry with? The people selling or the people buying?
- Why is Jesus angry?

The merchants in the temple were serving the people. They were in the temple so that people coming to worship God from long distances could purchase the required offerings and sacrifices.

- If you would like to learn about each one, read these verses: Food merchants - Deuteronomy 14:22-26, Money changers - Exodus 30:13-14, Dove salesmen - Leviticus 5:7
- Has someone ever been angry with you over something you were supposed to be doing?

Reread Matthew 21.13. Jesus is referring to a passage written by the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel. Read Jeremiah 7:3-11.

- After reading Jeremiah, does your opinion of Jesus' anger change?
- Do you think Jesus is angry with the merchants or the people? Why?

Jesus turns over the tables so that the people could no longer purchase the needed supplies. Jeremiah accuses the people of dishonoring God in their lives while pretending to honor God in the temple. (Jeremiah 7:9-10). Jesus is accusing the people of the same actions. The Israelites were doing all the right actions at the temple, but not living in the right ways at home.

Are Christians guilty of the same thing today? Are you ever guilty of honoring God on Sundays, but not during the rest of the week?

This scene in Matthew closes with Jesus performing healings. Jesus is accusing the people of doing unrighteous things in the temple, and then he models righteous things. Do you think the religious leaders are upset because Jesus disrupted their system that day, or because they knew, like we know, that Jesus came to remove the sacrificial system, and ultimately be our sacrifice?

## Apply

Are there times in your life you worship on Sunday but don't think about God Monday through Saturday? Are there actions and attitudes that Jesus is trying to disrupt and drive out of your life?

Reflect together. On a daily basis, are you one of the children, proclaiming that Jesus is our salvation, or are you one of the religious leaders, avoiding who Jesus is to protect your own way of life?

## Pray

As you pray, give God those areas Christ wants driven out of your life and ask God's guidance and strength to help you act with justice and righteousness instead.