



Buying and selling in the temple

Luke 19:45-48 *And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; 46 Saying unto them, **It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.** 47 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, 48 And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.*

We have all read and heard that nothing is new under the sun. Well, these passages reveal something very prevalent today in the church, yet many would not connect it to this passage of scripture. During the time of Jesus, there was buying and selling going on in the temple—which is supposed to be a place of worship. This would be what we call **church** today.

What did Jesus do about it?

Notice that not everyone who came to the place of worship was there to worship. There were people in the temple that were not there to worship but buy and sell—transact—making it a den of thieves. Leaders and pastors need to protect the sheep from these thieves. They should not platform them or be a part of the den. It is shame that some pastors have pyramid schemes and transactions going on in their churches and have made the house of the Lord, not of prayer but instead a den of thieves.

Verse 47 *Says the chief priests, scribes, and the chief of the people sought to destroy him.*

These so-called leaders were a part of the club of the thieves, and it did not sit well with them when Jesus rid the temple of the thieves. Jesus was cutting into their business, and it is these people in leadership that sought to destroy Him, not the regular people.

When you throw out thieves from the temple, church, or ministry, many of them will seek to destroy you. They won't go down without a fight. I do not want to give lots of details, but I remember when I was appointed to direct a ministry/organization, just like Jesus I found that in many ways it had been made a den of thieves, and when I threw out the thieves, they started to plot, connive, slander, destroy and character assassinate me. They were out to destroy me. Just like in Jesus' case, they failed but they surely came after me.

Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard *it*, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.

- i) One of the reasons they failed is that the Word of God was being preached from all corners and the rooftop and people were astonished at our doctrine.

Is your church, ministry, and organization become a den of thieves? Heads must roll—mostly likely those of the leaders. Are you ministering the Word of preying on the sheep by selling certain products and schemes?