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BIB 201: New Testament: OC

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#### Week 4 DQ1: Cleansing of the Temple

Many people refer to Mark as the shortest Gospel. Compared to Matthew's 28, Luke's 24, and John's 21, it has 16 chapters.

The story's merchants and currency changers, who were offering animals for sale and dealing in cash in the temple, are the targets of Jesus' complaint. Although the phrasing varies somewhat, they are similarly reported in all three of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). In all three stories, Jesus performs the same actions, including whipping the merchants and money changers out of the temple, knocking over their tables, and accusing them of turning it into a den of thieves.

The specifics of Jesus constructing a whip out of cords are, however, only mentioned in John's Gospel.

If I were a newspaper writer covering this story with Luke as the only eyewitness, I would inform my readers that Jesus actually entered the temple and He drove out the vendors who were there and the money changers who were buying and selling animals and exchanging money, and that He was declaring them guilty of turning the temple into a den of thieves.

Jesus quotes these two verses from the Old Testament, which are: Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11. In addition to criticizing the traders and money changers for turning the

temple into a marketplace, He made reference to them to underline the significance of the temple as a place of worship, not a business place, for them to defile. Jesus is demonstrating His enthusiasm for the temple and His disapproval/rebuke of those who would ruin it by their connection to what is transpiring.