

John 2:13-22

This is one the stories of Jesus that most people already know.

Have you ever felt ripped off? Like you were taken advantage of?

Think about that situation for a moment.

What made you feel that way?

In the Jewish world, you would travel to Jerusalem and offer a sacrifice, you would bring an offering from your home, many of these offerings were animals from your flock. So imagine coming from a distant town, making a weeklong pilgrimage with a lamb to sacrifice. When you get to the temple, a priest informs you that your lamb is not good enough to be sacrificed. But this is the best lamb that you had. The only option is that you need to buy a lamb from one of the people selling at the temple.

Have you ever bought snacks at a movie theater? How much does a drink cost at a movie theater? How much does that same drink cost you at 7-eleven?

Do you think the temple was selling animals at movie theater or 7-eleven prices?

Jesus comes into the temple in these circumstances and this is what turns his attention. He drives out the people who are ripping off the people who are coming to make sacrifices.

Why do you think that Jesus reacted the way that he did?

What do you think that the onlookers were thinking as they saw all of this?