



*Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."*

-Mark 11:15-17

## DEVOTIONAL

Jesus walks into the temple and does something inconvenient. He clears space. He interrupts what has become normal. The problem is not that there is activity in God's house; it is that worship has become a system that burdens the vulnerable, that the sacred has been narrowed to those who know the rules.

I wonder what has crowded out prayer in me. Hurry. People-pleasing. Old grudges. A low-grade anger I keep calling "fine." Not because God is disgusted, but because God wants room to breathe.

Jesus' clearing has direction. It is for the sake of a house of prayer for all nations, not insiders, not people who have earned access, but all. Love sometimes flips tables. Not for drama. For freedom. For the ones always pushed to the edges.

Clearing is not destruction. It is preparation. Making space for what is holy to be possible again.

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Clear one small space today, a drawer, a corner, your car seat. As you do, pray,  
"God, make room in me."

## CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, You clear what blocks love. Clear what needs clearing in me. Make my life a place where prayer and welcome can breathe. Amen.

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