**Mark 11:15-17**

**15**And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves

**16**And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

**17**And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

***In Mark 11:15, Jesus enters the temple and drives out those buying and selling, overturning the tables of money changers and the seats of those selling doves, signifying his righteous indignation at the temple being used for commerce rather than prayer and worship.***

Here's a more detailed explanation:

* **The Context:**

Jesus and his disciples arrive in Jerusalem, and Jesus enters the temple courtyards, a place meant for prayer and worship.

* **The Problem:**

He finds people buying and selling animals for sacrifices, and money changers and dove sellers operating within the temple grounds.

* **Jesus's Action:**

Jesus, in a display of righteous anger, overturns the tables of the money changers and the seats of the dove sellers, and drives out those engaged in commerce.

* **The Meaning:**

This act demonstrates Jesus's authority and his passion for upholding the sanctity of God's house, which should be a place of prayer and worship, not a marketplace.

* **Further Interpretation:**

Some interpret this as Jesus condemning temple-based capitalism and rebelling against the religious aristocracy that profited from temple rituals, and prophesying the destruction of the temple itself.

* **Relevance Today:**

This event reminds us to ensure that our worship is sincere and not distracted by worldly concerns, and to stand up against injustice and wrongdoing.

***In Ezekiel 34:1-10, God condemns the "shepherds" (leaders) of Israel for their self-serving neglect of the people, who are likened to a flock, and for failing to care for the weak, sick, and lost, instead prioritizing their own interests.***

Here's a more detailed explanation:

* **God's Condemnation:**

God instructs Ezekiel to prophesy against the "shepherds of Israel" (religious and political leaders) who are neglecting their responsibilities.

* **The Charge:**

The shepherds are accused of:

* + **Self-serving behavior:** They are said to "feed themselves" rather than the flock, prioritizing their own well-being over the needs of the people.
  + **Neglect of the vulnerable:** They are accused of not strengthening the weak, healing the sick, or binding up the injured, nor bringing back the lost or seeking the strayed.
  + **Harsh rule:** They are accused of ruling with force and harshness, causing the flock to be scattered and vulnerable.
* **The Result:**

The flock (the people) suffers because of the shepherds' actions, becoming scattered and prey to predators.

* **Shepherds as Leaders:**

The passage uses the imagery of a shepherd and flock to represent leaders and their people, highlighting the responsibility of leaders to care for and protect their people.

* **Prophecy of Judgment:**

Ezekiel 34:1-10 is a prophecy of judgment against the unfaithful shepherds, foreshadowing the consequences of their neglect and the need for God's intervention.

***In 2 Chronicles 1:7-13, God appears to Solomon in a dream after Solomon's sacrifices at Gibeon and offers him anything he desires. Solomon, instead of asking for wealth or power, requests wisdom and knowledge to rule God's people justly, which pleases God, who grants him wisdom, knowledge, riches, and honor, surpassing any king before or after him.***

Here's a more detailed explanation:

* **Solomon's Sacrifice and God's Appearance:**

After Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings at Gibeon, God appeared to him in a dream, offering him anything he wished.

* **Solomon's Request:**

Instead of asking for riches, long life, or the defeat of his enemies, Solomon humbly asked for wisdom and knowledge to judge God's people and distinguish between right and wrong.

* **God's Grant:**

God was pleased with Solomon's request and granted him wisdom and knowledge, surpassing any king before or after him.

* **Additional Blessings:**

In addition to wisdom and knowledge, God also promised Solomon riches, honor, and a long life, provided he followed God's commands.

* **Solomon's Reign:**

After obtaining wisdom from God, Solomon returned from the tabernacle and began to reign over Israel, demonstrating his commitment to God's will.

* **The Significance of Solomon's Request:**

Solomon's request for wisdom, rather than worldly possessions, highlights the importance of seeking God's guidance and understanding in leadership and life in

***In Matthew 12:1-8, Jesus and his disciples are walking through a field on the Sabbath and pick grain to eat, an act the Pharisees deem unlawful. Jesus defends his disciples, citing precedents and ultimately declaring himself "Lord of the Sabbath".***

Here's a more detailed explanation:

* **The Context:** Jesus and his disciples are walking through a field of grain on the Sabbath, and they become hungry.
* **The Action:** To satisfy their hunger, the disciples pluck heads of grain and eat them.
* **The Accusation:** The Pharisees, who are known for their strict interpretation of the Sabbath laws, observe this and accuse Jesus' disciples of doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath.
* **Jesus' Defense:** Jesus responds by questioning the Pharisees' understanding of the Sabbath, pointing to precedents in the Old Testament where priests performed work on the Sabbath to maintain the temple and the fact that David and his men ate the sacred bread, which was not permitted for them.
* **Jesus' Authority:** He then states that "the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8), asserting his authority over the Sabbath and its laws.
* **The Pharisees' Response:** The Pharisees, however, are not convinced and continue to challenge Jesus.
* **The Pharisees' Intent:** The Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus and discredit him.
* **The Pharisees' Actions:** The Pharisees' actions are a form of legalism and a lack of compassion.
* **Jesus' Teachings:** Jesus' teachings emphasize mercy and compassion over strict