

# An encounter with the temple traders

## John 2:16

ACC AUTUMN SERMON SERIES 2019

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE CHRIST KIND





awks

DREAMWORKS  
**SHREK**  
FOREVER AFTER

SHREK FOREVER AFTER









# Finding out why Jesus did what he did

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

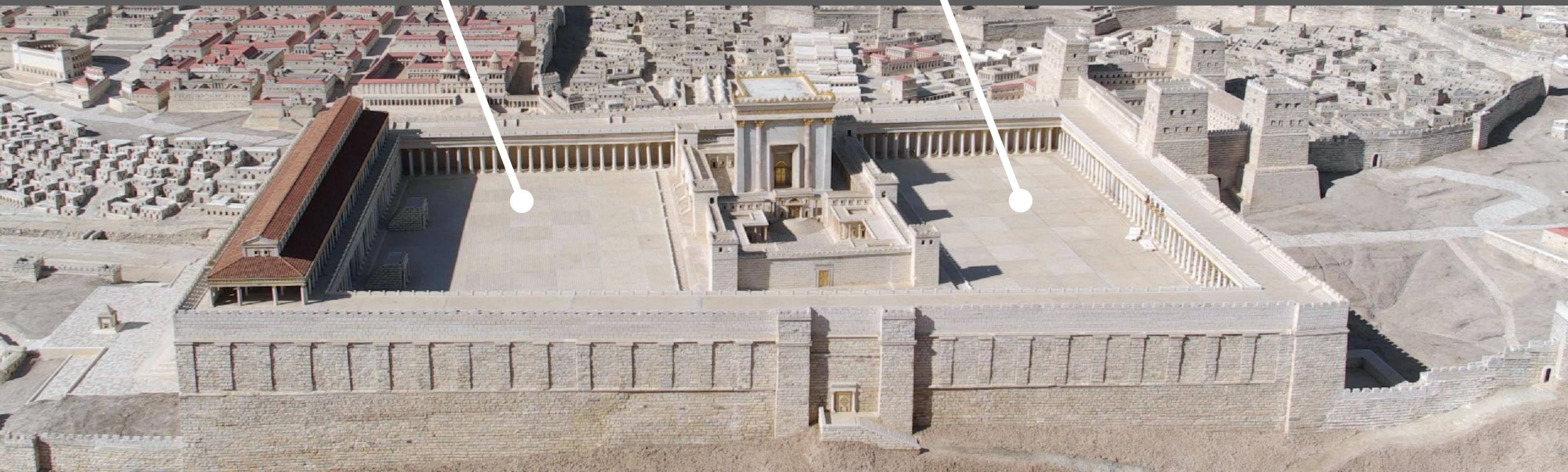
14 In the **temple courts** he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

16 To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”

**John 2:13–16**

# The Temple Courts...



...where the gentiles could worship God and pray

Jesus was (sinlessly) angry because the gentiles were being prevented from praying.





# A house of prayer made into a den of robbers

**“It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”**

**Matthew 21:13**

**(See also Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; Jeremiah 7:11; Isaiah 56:7)**

**Are we doing  
anything which  
may prevent  
prayer?**



**Discuss what may prevent or hinder prayer.  
In your discussion consider both praying on your own and praying with others.**





# How the temple traders were preventing prayer



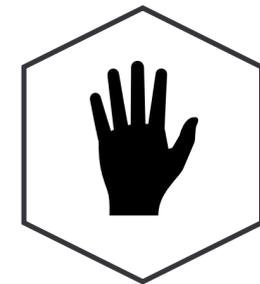
## HEAD

They had a bad theology of the gentiles



## HEART

Their hearts loved money more than prayer & gentiles



## HANDS

So they sold animals, exchanged money & made profit

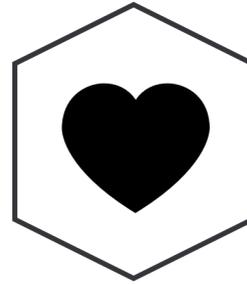


# How we can prevent or negatively affect prayer



## HEAD

We can have a bad theology of prayer



## HEART

We want/trust other things more than we want God



## HANDS

So we don't really pray much and don't connect with God



# HEAD—how to enable prayer

**God loves to hear us pray!**

**He welcomes us even if we've had a bad day**

**“Prayer is communication with God about what we are doing together.”**

**Prayer is not just at set times, it is all the time!**



# HEART—how to enable prayer

Pray about your heart “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24”

Remember you are accepted, secure, significant. Pray in response to that.

Take time to be still—prayer is kind of mindfulness—it’s good for us to still the whirlwind in our mind.

Identify your heart idols—they capture our hearts.



# HANDS—how to enable prayer

**Use the '5 things to pray for' books**

**Turn off distractions: screens steal prayer!**

**Try different postures for prayer**

**Find your favourite time and place for prayer—and give God  
your best time**

**Get rid of any misconceptions, misunderstandings or unhelpful  
comparisons**

**Shake off paralysis and try something!**