



## The Cleansing of the Temple

11:15-19



- The temple should've been dedicated to prayer and worship
- Instead it desecrated by moneychangers, turning the house of God into a store
- "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations, but you have made it a den of robbers." (11:17) - *Isaiah 56:7*

## Conflict in the Temple (pt 2)

11:1-12:44

- Conflict with the Religious Leaders (11:27 - 12:40)
  - The Authority of Jesus (11:27-33)
  - The Parable of the Vineyard (12:1-12)
  - The Pharisees' and Herodians' Question (12:13-17)
  - The Sadducees' Question (12:18-27)
  - The Scribes' Question (12:28-40)
- Conclusion: The Widow's Acceptable Offering (12:41-44)

## The Authority of Jesus

11:27-33



- 'By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?'
- Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.'
- They answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

## The Parable of the Vineyard

12:1-12

- Summary statement: “he began to teach them in parables”
- God’s relationship with Israel
- Humanity’s responsibility to respond faithfully to the covenant.
- Bearing spiritual fruits, being good stewards of God’s blessings



PHARISEES (from Greek for “separated ones”)	SCRIBES (soferim in ancient Hebrew)	SADDUCEES (perhaps from Greek for “followers of Zadok,” Solomon’s High Priest)	ESSENES (probably Greek from the Syriac “holy ones”)	ZEALOTS (from Greek: “zealous one”)
<b>Evolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brotherhoods devoted to the Torah and its strict adherence from c150 BCE. Became the people’s party, favored passive resistance to Greco-Roman rule</li> </ul>	<b>Evolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copiers and interpreters of the Torah since before the Exile of 586 BCE. Linked to the Pharisees, but some were also Sadducees and on the Sanhedrin Supreme Council</li> </ul>	<b>Evolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservative, wealthy, and aristocratic party of the status quo from c150 BCE. Usually held the high priesthood and were the majority of the 71-member Sanhedrin Supreme Council. Prepared to work with Rome and Herods</li> </ul>	<b>Evolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakaway desert monastic group, especially at Qumran on the Dead Sea from c130 BCE. Lived communally, without private property, as farmers or craftsmen under a Teacher of Righteousness and Council</li> </ul>	<b>Evolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremist fighters who regarded political freedom as a religious imperative. Underground resistance movement, especially strong in Galilee. The most fanatical became sicarii, dagger-wielding assassins</li> </ul>
<b>Beliefs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believed in Messianic redemption, resurrection, free will, angels and demons, and oral interpretations of the Torah</li> </ul>	<b>Beliefs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined work, etc, so as to keep the Sabbath. Obedience to their written code would win salvation</li> </ul>	<b>Beliefs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not believe in resurrection, free will, angels, and demons, or oral interpretations of the Torah – enjoy this life</li> </ul>	<b>Beliefs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priesthood, Temple sacrifices, and calendar were all invalid. They expected the world’s early end and did not believe in resurrection. Year’s probation for membership</li> </ul>	<b>Beliefs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “No rule but the Law – No King but God”. They expected a Messiah to save their cause</li> </ul>
<b>Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fasted twice a week and washed ritually. Observed seven hours of prayer and gave 10 percent of all possessions to the Temple</li> </ul>	<b>Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compiled the Mishnah record of oral law c200 CE</li> </ul>	<b>Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Priests had a monopoly on animals for sacrifice and levied 10 percent tithes for upkeep of the Temple. Marriage and luxurious living were acceptable</li> </ul>	<b>Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worshiped three times a day in strict order. Copied Hebrew scriptures. Ritual baths plus meal of wine and bread on Sabbath. Few married, and women lived outside walls</li> </ul>	<b>Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led revolts against Rome in 6, 42 and 66-73 CE but were often divided among themselves</li> </ul>
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Judaism: Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, Essenes, and Zealots

## The Pharisees’ and Herodians’ Question

12:13-17

- ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?’
- “Knowing their hypocrisy...”



## The Sadducees’ Question

12:18-27

- Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.
- There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; none of the seven left children.
- Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.’



## The Scribes' Question

12:28-40

- Which commandment is the first of all?
- 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'
- After that no one dared to ask him any question.



## The Widow's Acceptable Offering

12:41-44

- Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
- For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.



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