

INTERPRETING THE TEMPLE INCIDENT

Historical Setting Factors:

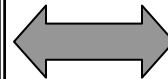
- Site of incident: on or off Temple Mount?
- Timing of incident: synoptic or Johannine?
- Not instantly arrested when incident occurred
- Extent of disturbance
- Only Jesus executed, not followers
- Executed by crucifixion

What Do *We* Think Jesus Was?

- Observant Jew consistent with Hillel; teacher of eschatological realities
- Wisdom teacher
- Prophet of God's Kingdom; eschatological prophet
- Reformer/restorer of Israel
- Charismatic teacher and healer
- Teacher of eschatological wisdom
- Prophet like Jeremiah
- Creatively reconfigured many strands of late Second Temple Judaism in ways not neatly categorized
 - Wandering cynic philosopher
 - Critic of Judaism

What Do *We* Think Jesus Thought He was Doing?

- Insisting on Temple purity (no mammon)
- Critiquing Temple Leadership or Operations
- Demonstrating the Temple's imminent destruction
 - Condemning the Temple Cult / Sacrificial System



Gospel Factors:

- Historicity of event vs. Evangelists' Creativity
- Mark: Overturns tables of those buying *and* selling
 - cursing of the fig tree
 - meaning of *skeuos*
 - House of prayer "for all the nations"
- Matthew: children crying "Hosanna!"
- Luke: Jesus teaches daily in Temple
 - Stephen's Temple speech in Acts
- John: early in ministry
 - "Zeal for your house will consume me"
 - Destroy this temple, I'll raise it in 3 days.

Relevant NT materials:

- Entry into Jerusalem
- Destruction sayings
- Parabolic critique of leaders / priests
- Absence in Paul
- Acts' depiction of Jerusalem church in Temple worship
- Tearing of Temple curtain at Jesus' death

Other Relevant Materials:

- Jeremiah 7:11; 26
- Isaiah 56:7
- Psalm 69:10
- Qumran
- Mishnah (though status re 1st century is a question)
- Josephus