

April 10, 2006  
Monday of Holy Week

## **"Open Sesame!!"**

### **The church should be a place of prayer and worship.**

#### **Key Verse: Luke 12:34 (NASB)**

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

#### **Bible Passage: Matthew 21:10-17 (NASB)**

*And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee." And Jesus entered the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a robbers' den." And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. ... [Then] he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and lodged there.*

#### **Lesson Thought**

In the Arabian Nights a poor wood cutter named Ali Baba witnessed forty thieves open a cave full of their stolen treasures by simply saying "Open Sesame!" When the thieves left the cave, Ali Baba said the magic words that open the door of the cave. He saw, first hand, their stolen treasure. In our Bible passage today, Jesus said some people had turned the temple of God into a robber's den, a robber's den like the one Ali Baba found. Jesus rebukes these people who are using God's house as a store to sell things. Just imagine if you came to church on Sunday morning and found people selling lawn mowers, new clothes, jewelry, shoes, and Little Tykes toys! The church should be a place of prayer and worship, not a robber's den!

#### **Application: what does this lesson say to us today?**

1) Do you get the impression that Jesus is angry with these merchants? Does a holy and righteous God get angry? When do you think He gets angry? Is it ever okay for a Christian to get angry? When would it be okay for a Christian to get angry?

2) Do you pray when you enter God's house for worship? Do you pray that God will speak to you? That He will speak to others? That God will bless the musicians and the preacher?

**Family Activities: putting the lesson into action**

Have each family member think about what their favorite thing is about going to God's house. Share that thing with each other.

**Suggestions for further study**

Matthew 21:10-17

John 2:13-16

Numbers 22:22; 25:3

Deuteronomy 9:8

1 Kings 11:9

2 Kings 17:18

Galatians 2:11-14

*Jim Bates*