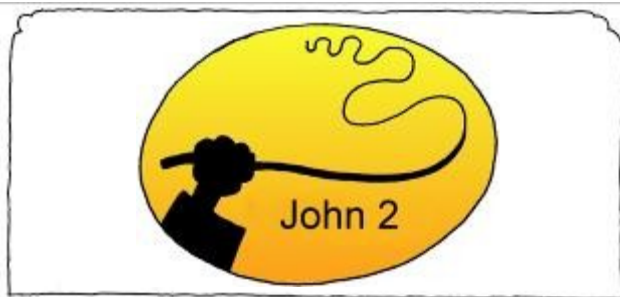


JESUS stops the temple market

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther



This story reminds us to respect the house of God.



Jesus went up to the Temple at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, just as he had done since he was a boy. It was a time to thank God for saving the people of Israel.



Inside the temple people had set up a market selling oxen, sheep and doves for the temple offering, but charging them far too much and being dishonest.



Jesus was upset that the holy temple of God had become a noisy, smelly, market place and he plaited a whip from small cords of rope.



He took the whip and chased the stall holders and all their animals, right out of the temple, telling them not to set up their market in God's house again.



Jesus told the people who sold doves for the temple offering, to get them out of there too. All the stall holders, their doves and their animals fled outside.



Then Jesus went to the tables where the bankers who changed money sat. He tipped over the tables and the money went everywhere.



"Take these things out of my Father's house," Jesus said, "It is not a place to make money, it is a house of prayer."