



KEY VERSE: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (Matthew 21:6)

Doing What Is Just!

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

God's Word

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.”



6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.



12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. **13** “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.’” **14** The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. **15** But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. **16** “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘from the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?’” **17** And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Bible Story

Doing What Is Just!

Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

As Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem, He sent two disciples ahead. He told them that they would find a donkey and a colt together. He instructed them to bring the animals to Him. They did as Jesus instructed. When they returned, the disciples put their cloaks on the donkey and colt so Jesus could sit on it. When they came to the city, a large crowd was there. They threw down their cloaks and cut down branches and spread them on the road as Jesus passed by.

After that, Jesus went to the Temple. What He saw there made Him angry. People were doing things that they were not supposed to be doing. Some were buying and selling animals for sacrifices. Other people had set up tables, and they were exchanging money. Jesus knocked over the chairs and table. He said, "My house will be called a 'house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

While Jesus was still at the Temple, He healed a blind man. The children began to shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David." When the chief priests saw all the good things Jesus did and heard what the children were saying, they became angry and approached Jesus. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked. "Yes," Jesus replied. "Have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'" Jesus then left them and went to Bethany, where He spent the night.

Do the Right Thing

(Part 1)

"Papa, last week we talked about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I remembered the stories you told about marching with him," Tyler said.

"Yesterday was the fifty-second anniversary of his death," Papa commented.

"We learned that in class. That's what I wanted to talk to you about. He wasn't treated fairly. We read that he was put in jail twenty-nine times for doing the right thing!" Tyler noted.

"No, he wasn't treated fairly, but Dr. King was fighting so things would become fair for everyone," Papa explained.

"Papa, did you ever want to give up marching with Dr. King back then?" Tyler asked.

"Yes . . . every other day," Papa replied.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hi! Nicholas and Cornelius here. Every year, Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember the time when God protected them from death. People came from different countries to Jerusalem to take part in Passover. They were required to give an offering and pay a Temple tax. They needed the right kind of money to pay this tax, but their countries used different money. The money changers were providing a necessary service—or were they?



Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Do the Right Thing

(Part 2)

“Tyler, it wasn’t easy to go out and not fight back. See this scar on my head? I was hit with a brick during one of the marches,” Papa shared.

“Why didn’t you fight back?” Tyler inquired.

“This was the way we protested. It was the right thing to do. Dr. King taught us that ‘darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.’ We were trying to be lights in a dark situation,” Papa explained.

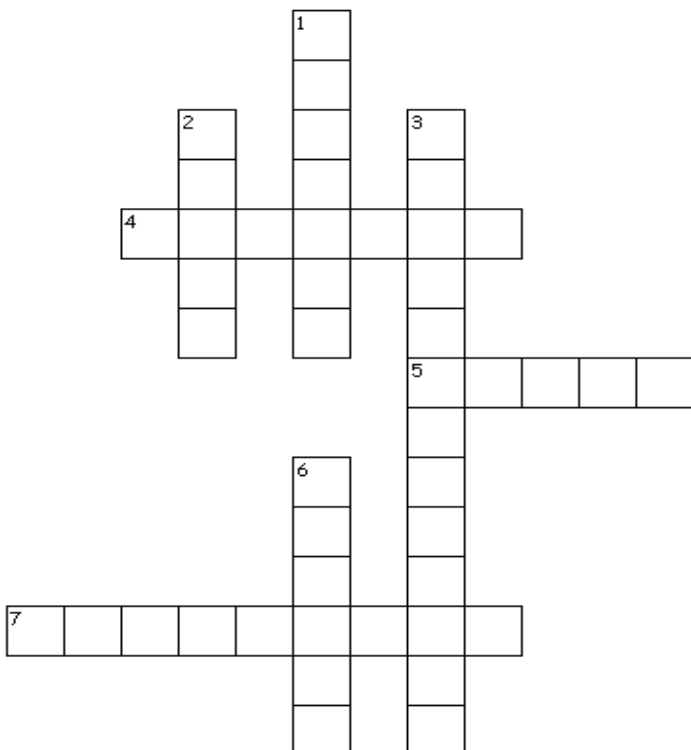
“Papa, I’m going to tell my friends how you and Dr. King did the right thing. I only hope I’ll always do the right thing too,” Tyler replied.

What the money changers were doing would have been helpful if they had been honest. They were actually cheating the people by giving them less than what their money was worth. To make things worse, the merchants buying and selling in the Temple were treating it like it was a mall and not the house of prayer. Remember that it is important to be fair and honest in everything you do.



A Crossword Puzzle

Reread today’s Bible story and Scripture passage. Then use the clues below to fill words from today’s lesson into the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 4 A word used to express adoration or praise
- 5 A large number of people gathered together
- 7 Followers of Jesus Christ

Down

- 1 A place smaller than a town
- 2 An outer garment
- 3 Persons whose business is exchanging one currency for another (two words)
- 6 A building devoted to worship