

And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'my house will be called a house of Prayer for all nations?' But you have made it a den of robbers." (Mark 11:17)

Luke's Gospel is a gentile gospel and thus Jesus is presented as the Son of Man as compared to Son of God in Matthew. In this passage we see Jesus entering the temple court area meant for the gentiles to worship. He was astonished to see trade taking place there. Religion under the Roman Empire had become a burden for common people. The rituals were expensive and thereby traders made huge profits. Since trade was going on in the temple, it would have received sanction from the empire. He is angry and drives out the sellers and buyers, overturns the tables of the money changers and seats of those selling doves. He declares that God's house which is meant to be a house of prayer for all the nations has been turned into a den of robbers.

The sacredness of the temple was disturbed because of this trade. The scribes and the chief priest earned profit out of it. The purity of the temple was disturbed for monetary gains. People were denied place to pray as it was taken over by the traders. The church today needs to follow what Jesus did. It should become an open space for people whom society discriminates against. It should become an open space for emancipation.

Prayer

Help your church to be open to all. Inspire your people to remove all sorts of discrimination and corruption so that the church becomes life giving. Amen.