



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

CAST

Trader 1
Trader 2
Customer

Speaking Up
What Do You Believe?

Two traders are gossiping about Jesus trashing the Temple in a fit of rage; a customer who was actually there joins the conversation.

The traders are setting up their stall.

Trader 1: All right, Jed?

Trader 2: Yes, Sammy. How's business going?

Trader 1: Can't complain. Hey, did you hear about Shifty and his posse getting kicked out of the Temple by that Jesus?

Trader 2: No way! No one would mess with the Temple trading, and Shifty had done a deal with the Chief Priest. I think he was getting 15 per cent of his profits!

Trader 1: Well, not any more. *(conspiratorially)* From what I heard from old Ned, who had seen Un-leavened Linda's sister at the well, who had spoken directly to Shifty's cousin Nagging Nina at the river - well, Shifty and his whole gang were doing a roaring trade. They'd even moved into the main Temple courtyard to sell their sheep, cattle, and doves for sacrifices. Shifty only stocks pigeons, though; he hardly feeds them and calls them doves! He's making an absolute killing! Who can afford a lamb these days? He'd also set up a money-changing table so people could pay their Temple taxes right there and then, for a healthy profit... genius! It's Passover time, so it was heaving in there.

Trader 2: *(sings whilst rubbing his hands)* It's the most wonderful time of the year!
(Traders laugh together)

Customer: Good morning! Do you happen to have any of those Philistine Fidget Fiddlers by any chance?





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- Trader 2:** Hang on, pal, we're barely open, and I'm listening to a belting story here!
- Trader 1:** So...all was going well until that Jesus stepped into what he called 'His Father's House'. Here's where it escalated!
- (Dramatically acts out Jesus' actions)* They said that Jesus got some rope, turns it into a whip (maybe by magic), and then he drives out all the animals, whilst riding on a bull! He releases all the doves without even touching the cages, scatters the gold coins like it's raining coins, and then lassos Shifty and his cronies and drags them out on to the street!
- Customer:** Sorry, old chap, I couldn't help but overhearing your story, and that's not exactly what happened.
- Traders 1 & 2:** *(shouting)* How would you know?!
- Customer:** I was there.
- Traders 1 & 2:** *(shouting)* You were there?!
- Customer:** I went to pray...
- Traders 1 & 2:** *(shouting)* You went to pray?!
- Customer:** Please stop doing that.
- Traders 1 & 2:** *(shouting)* Please stop doing...?! *(they look at each other)*
- Customer:** So it is true that Jesus ran off that band of thieves, but he had every right to do so. If we'd had any courage we would have spoken up weeks ago. But Jesus will have put a serious target on his back; he has upset some very powerful people.
- Trader 2:** He didn't lasso them?
- Customer:** I'm afraid not.
- Trader 1:** *(doing a bull-riding impression)* He didn't ride out on the animals?
- Customer:** Er, no. *(nervously, then growing in confidence)* But he did do something amazing that hardly anyone is talking about. People are so interested in the fact that Jesus got angry, that they aren't focusing on what happened next.





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Trader 2: Did he bring down lightning from heaven and smite the priests and teachers of law?! Swoosh...Boom! (*makes lightning sound!*)

Customer: (*chuckling*) Not quite. Jesus welcomed back into the Temple the blind and the crippled, (*in wonder*) and he healed them! I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes! And before you knew it, the Temple was filled with children who were shouting praises: 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' The Temple had been restored to its rightful state, by Jesus' righteous anger.

REVERENT PAUSE

Trader 1: (*Snaps out of it - mocking*) Come on, mate - you must think we were born yesterday! All this miracle rubbish - until I see it with my own eyes...

Trader 2: Yeah, next you'll be telling us he really is the Son of God.

Customer: (*quietly*) I believe he is.

