

# Day 2 - Cleansing The Temple

Monday

Pesach/Passover & Holy Week

5786/2026

K.L.Moore

1 / 8



# Session Agenda

01

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**The Cleansing of the Temple: Inspecting the House**

02

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**The Inspection: Theological Interrogation**

03

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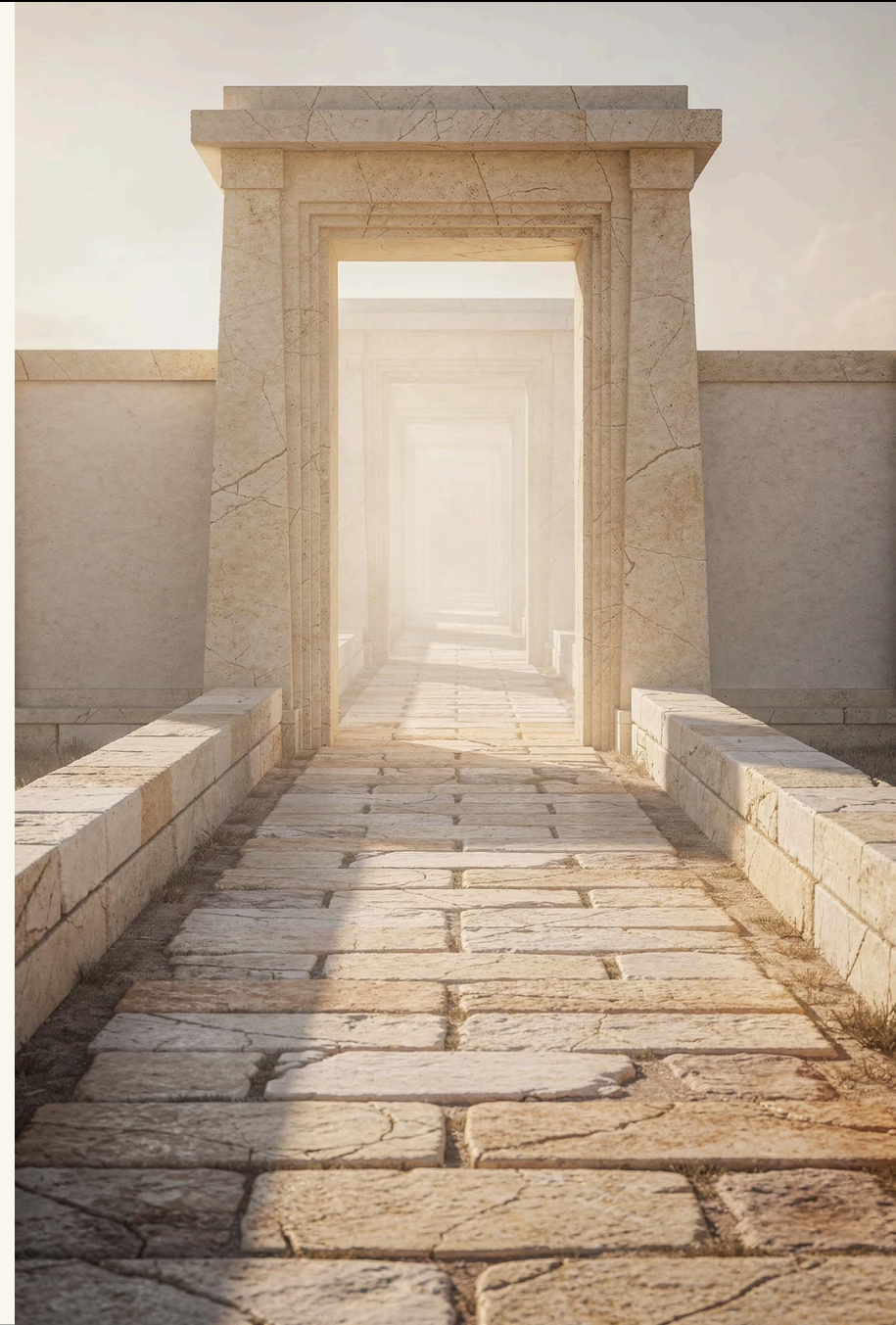
**The Verdict: "No Blemish Found"**

04

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**Key Point: Holiness is the Prerequisite**

2 / 8





# Cleansing The Temple

## The Testing of the Lamb

The transition from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the confrontation of Holy Monday and Tuesday is one of the most intense periods in the life of Christ. In the context of Pesach, these days represent the "Selection and Inspection" phase. According to Exodus 12:3-6, the lamb was chosen on the 10th of Nisan and kept until the 14th so it could be closely examined for any spot, blemish, or defect.

# 1. The Cleansing of the Temple: Inspecting the House

When Jesus entered the Temple on Monday (Mark 11:15–18), He wasn't just angry; He was acting as the High Priest inspecting the House of God.

## The Violation

The "Court of the Gentiles"—the only place where non-Jews could pray—had been turned into a marketplace.

## The Words of Jesus

*"He said to them, 'The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves'"* (Mark 11:17).

## The Spiritual Connection

Before the Passover, Jewish families would perform *Bedikat Chametz*, a search for any "leaven" (sin) in the house to remove it. Jesus was physically removing the "leaven" of greed and corruption from His Father's house.

## 2. The Inspection: Theological Interrogation

On Tuesday, the religious leaders—the “inspectors” of the law—subjected Jesus to a series of sophisticated legal and theological traps. They wanted to find a “blemish” in His teaching to disqualify Him.

### A. The Trap of Authority

The priests asked, *“By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right to do them?”* (Matthew 21:23).

**Jesus’ Response:** He answered with a question about John the Baptist that left them speechless. He proved His authority was divine, not institutional.

### B. The Trap of Politics (The Tax)

The Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Him regarding Roman law: *“Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”* (Matthew 22:17).

**Jesus’ Response:** *“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God”* (Matthew 22:21). He bypassed their trap, showing His wisdom was not of this world.

### C. The Trap of Theology (The Resurrection)

The Sadducees (who didn’t believe in the resurrection) presented a convoluted story about a woman with seven husbands (Matthew 22:23–33).

**Jesus’ Response:** He corrected their understanding of eternity, proving that God is the God of the living.



### 3. The Verdict: "No Blemish Found"

The climax of this "inspection" occurs when a teacher of the law asks Jesus which is the most important commandment. After Jesus answers (Love God, Love your neighbor), the inspection ends.

#### The Silence

*Matthew 22:46 notes: "And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions."*

#### The Connection to the Lamb

Just as the priest would declare the Passover lamb *Tamim* (perfect/unblemished) after four days of inspection, Jesus emerged from the debates of Holy Week with His integrity, divinity, and purity fully intact.

## 4. Key Point: Holiness is the Prerequisite

In Leviticus 23, the purity of the sacrifice was non-negotiable. If the lamb had a single spot, it could not atone for sin.

### For Jesus

These days proved He was the "Lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19). He didn't just *look* holy; He was tested by the smartest minds of His time and remained "sinless" (Hebrews 4:15).

### For the Believer

We are reminded that we cannot save ourselves because our "leaven" (sin) is ever-present. We need the Perfect Lamb to stand in our place. As Jesus inspected the Temple, He invites us to let Him inspect our hearts during Holy Week—to remove the "den of thieves" within us and restore the "house of prayer."

**Reflection:** The religious leaders looked at Jesus to find a reason to kill Him; we look at Jesus to find the reason we can live. He passed the test so that we, who could never pass it, might be accepted through Him.

# We have covered...

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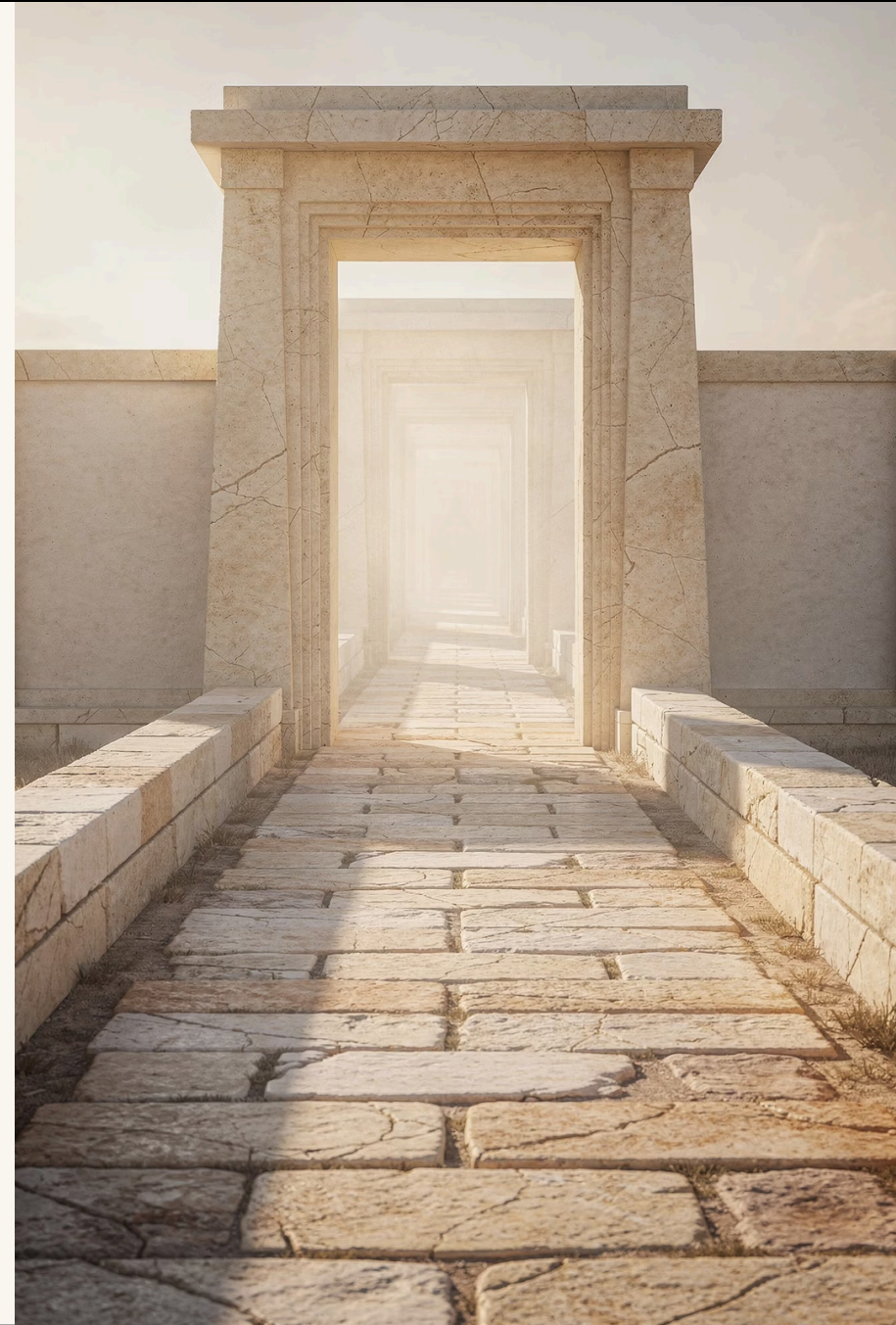
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