

**Clerestory Window No. 2 Small scene, Left lancet, Bottom  
Jesus casts out the money changers from the temple.**

Jesus literally upsets the law and order of the temple when he overturns the commercial area of the temple, where sacrifices were purchased or priced. The event is recorded in all four gospels. In the three synoptics, it occurs in the lead up to the Last Supper and the Passion. In John's gospel, which operates on a different timetable, it occurs several years before. ... The Herodian Temple, constructed late in the first century B.C.E., was a massive structure that supported a major cash cow due to the trade in religious sacrifice. Jesus' wrath is aimed not at a specific practice, but at the temple system in general. Channeling a passage from the prophet Jeremiah's famous "temple sermon" (Jeremiah 7), he calls out the temple as a "den of robbers." It is not, in this sense, the scene of some crime, but a place the "robbers" use as a refuge. The people were behaving poorly, the going to the temple for the hollow absolution of perfunctory ritual of animal sacrifice. Mercy, rather sacrifice, was the real answer. God's merciful grace would replace (or fulfill) the law (Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-18 John 2:13-16 ...reference Jeremiah7)