

EASTER (1)

Why did people want to kill Jesus?

We have 3 weeks before the Easter festival. For English Corner we are doing a series of lessons on Easter and the man behind Easter – Jesus. We have learnt that Jesus was a famous teacher and forgave people's sins. Today we learn why some people wanted to kill him.

Hot Topics

1. Have you ever been to a busy marketplace – for example Dong Dae Moon Markets in Seoul or Temple Street markets in Hong Kong? Describe the marketplace.
2. Write down all the words you can think of to describe a busy marketplace. For example: sellers yelling out, the aroma of food cooking, bustling crowds.

Today's story

Today's story is about a busy marketplace - not a market on the street but inside a temple. In threes, read the story: *Narrator 1, Narrator 2 and Jesus.*

Narrator 1: When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons. Jesus would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple courtyards. He then taught the people:

Jesus: "It is written in the Scriptures that God said, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.' But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!"

Narrator 2: The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, so they began looking for some way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

When evening came, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

Discussion

1. What did Jesus see in the temple?
2. Jesus reacted angrily. Why did he do this? Was Jesus' reaction okay?
3. Why did the chief priests and teachers of the Law want to kill Jesus?
4. Does this problem of 'religion as business' happen today?
5. What is God's Temple/church meant to be like?
6. Have you been to church in Australia? What was it like?

Vocabulary

Pharisee: a religious leader

Temple: a place of worship

Scripture: a holy book

Thief: someone who steals things.

Drive out: to get rid of forcibly

Stool: a seat that does not have a back or arms.

Overthrown: to remove something with power or force

Disciples: followers of Jesus.

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