

Of Dens  
and  
Robbers



**Mark 11:** 15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

**Mark 11: 17** And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a **den of robbers.**” 18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. 19 And when evening came they went out of the city.

**Jeremiah 7: 7** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord. 3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.’”

**Jeremiah 7: 5** “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

**Jeremiah 7: 8** “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 **and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’**—only to go on doing all these abominations?

**Jeremiah 7:** If this house, which is called by my name, become a **den of robbers** in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord.





A big part of knowing something  
is wrong  
is knowing something is out of  
place.



**1 Kings 8: 27** But how could God possibly live on earth? If heaven, even the highest heaven, can't contain you, how can this temple that I've built contain you? **28** Lord my God, listen to your servant's prayer and request, and hear the cry and prayer that your servant prays to you today.

**1 Kings 8: 29** Constantly watch over this temple, the place about which you said, “My name will be there,” and listen to the prayer that your servant is praying toward this place. **30** Listen to the request of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place. **Listen from your heavenly dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive!**



They didn't steal by taking  
something out.

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They stole by bringing something  
in.





**They stole God's identity  
and robbed Him of His holiness.**

It wasn't only what they stole

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but where they kept the bounty.

Is this place, for you, become  
a den of robbers?



**1 Corinthians 15: 9** For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, **because I persecuted the church of God.**

**10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. **11** Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

The precursor to repentance  
is always revelation.

“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am”

— John Newton

By the grace of God I am what I am



'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears reliev'd;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believ'd!

— John Newton

Does your heart today,  
need to be taught to fear?



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