

## ~MONEY CHANGER (100)

[Greek, *kol-ly-bi-stes*']

- One whose function included the exchange of one currency for another and coins of one value for those of another value. For each transaction the money changer received a certain fee. Thus, the Greek word *kol-ly-bi-stes*', money changer, comes from the term *kol'ly-bos*, a small coin paid as a commission for changing money. The Greek word *ker-ma-ti-stes*', money broker or coin dealer, in;
- So, after making a whip of ropes, he drove all those with the sheep and cattle out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.
- So, after making a whip of ropes, he drove all those with the sheep and cattle out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the **money changers** and overturned their tables. (John 2:15)
- Is related to *ker'ma*, rendered **coin** in the same verse. Other services mentioned in the Jewish Mishnah as being provided by **money changers** were the safekeeping of **money** and the payment of wages upon the presentation of drafts. [Bava Mezia 3:11][Bava Mezia 9:12]
- In the time of Jesus earthly ministry the annual temple tax was two drachmas, a didrachma.
- After they arrived in Capernaum the men collecting the two drachmas tax approached Peter and said; Does your teacher not pay the two drachmas tax? (Matthew 17:24)
- As Jews from widely scattered lands came to Jerusalem for the celebration of the Passover and paid this tax then, the services of **money** changers may have been needed to exchange foreign currency for money that would be acceptable for payment of the temple tax, if not also the purchase of sacrificial animals and other items.
- According to the Mishnah [Shekalim 1:3], on the 15th of Adar, or about a month before Passover, the money changers set up for business in the provinces. But on the 25th of Adar, when Jews and proselytes from many other lands would be arriving at Jerusalem, the money changers established themselves in the temple area.

- It was at the temple that Jesus Christ on two occasions overturned the tables of the **money** changers and condemned them for having made the temple into a **house of merchandise** or a cave of robbers.
- Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. (**John 2:13**)
- And he found in the temple those selling cattle and sheep and doves and the **money brokers** in their seats. (**John 2:14**)
- So, after making a whip of ropes, he drove all those with the sheep and cattle out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the **money changers** and overturned their tables. (**John 2:15**)
- And he said to those selling the doves; Take these things away from here! Stop making the house of my Father a house of **merchandise**! (**John 2:16**)
- And Jesus entered into the temple and threw out all those selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the **money changers** and the benches of those selling doves.
- And Jesus entered into the temple and threw out all those selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the **money changers** and the benches of those selling doves. (**Matthew 21:12**)
- And he said to them; It is written: My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a **cave of robbers**. (**Matthew 21:13**)
- Now they came to Jerusalem. There he entered into the temple and started to throw out those selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the **money changers** and the benches of those selling doves. (**Mark 11:15**)
- And he would not let anyone carry a utensil through the temple. (**Mark 11:16**)
- But he kept teaching and saying; Is it not written; My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a **cave of robbers**. (**Mark 11:17**)

- This may imply that Jesus regarded the fees of the **money changers** as exorbitant. In this regard it is noteworthy that there were times when great profits were made on the sale of sacrificial animals. The Mishnah tells of a time when the price for a pair of doves was a golden *denar*, 25 silver *denars*.
- This prompted Simeon the son of Gamaliel to declare; By this Temple! I will not suffer the night to pass by before they cost but a silver *denar*. On that very day the price was drastically reduced. [*Keritot 1:7 (translated by H. Danby)*]