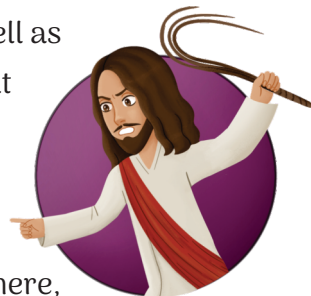


Third Sunday of Lent

Gospel – Adapted from John 2:13-25

Since Passover was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of rope and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and turned over their tables.



To those selling doves, he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” His disciples remembered the words of Scripture:

Zeal for your house will burn like a fire in me.

At this the Jews said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “We have been building this temple for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his Body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

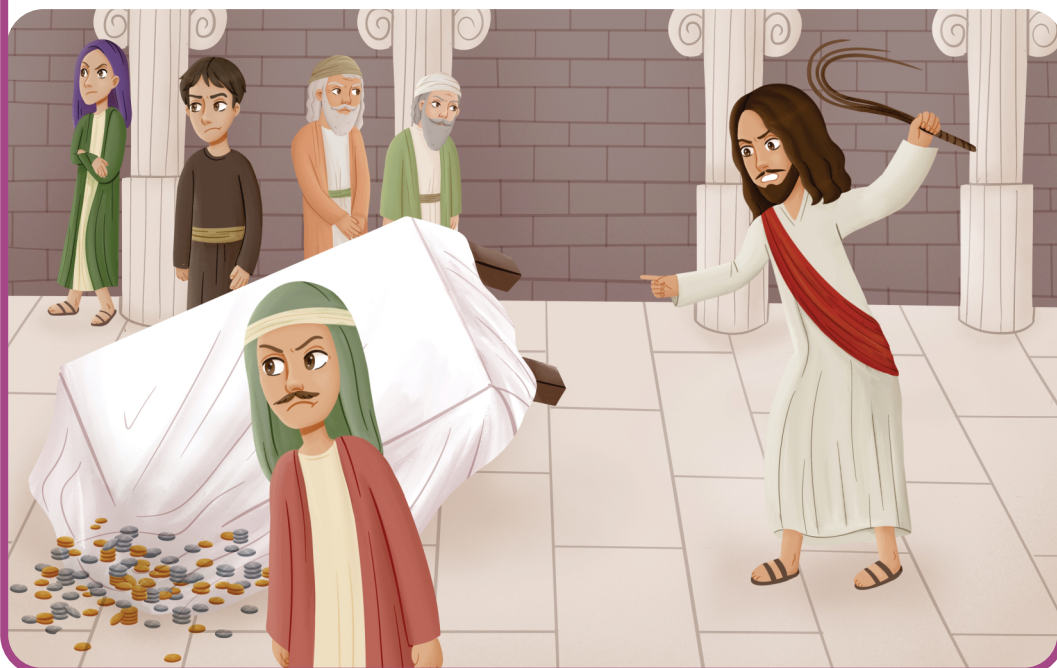
Reflection

Why did Jesus drive the money-changers out of the temple area? The temple was a holy place, and these men saw it only as a place to make money, and worse than that, they often cheated people, and used the temple of God as an opportunity to steal. Jesus could not allow that. He is teaching us piety, or reverence, respect for holy things. Maybe He is challenging us to think about how we treat things that are holy. Are we respectful in church? Do we treat sacred places and objects in a

special way because of their connection to God, or do we treat them like everything else? It is important for us to recognize that certain things are sacred, and that certain places are holy. Showing reverence for holiness here on earth begins to prepare us for the perfect holiness of Heaven.



The other virtue that we see in Jesus in this Gospel is zeal. Zeal is a passion, an enthusiasm for the Faith. You may know someone who is zealous about sports. Every time you see them, they always bring up their favorite sports team. It's like they're obsessed. And if you insult what they are zealous about, look out! That is how Jesus feels about His Father. When He saw people using the temple, which was made to worship God, as a place to steal and get rich, He was filled with righteous anger. He had to correct them. He had to see that His Father is not insulted in this way. Zeal for God, for our Faith, is a good thing. We need prudence to express it properly, but we should be passionate and excited about being a child of God. Let us pray that God would fill us with holy zeal.



Discussion Questions

What are some sacred things or holy places that you come into contact with? How can you be reverent with them?

What are you most excited about in life? How can you help your enthusiasm for your Faith grow this Lent?

Vocabulary

- **Reverence** – Showing honor and respect to God and holy things
- **Sacrifices** – Offerings to God
- **Temple** – The Jewish people worshiped at the temple. This is where they made their offerings to God.
- **Zeal** – Enthusiasm, caring for something deeply. Zeal for God will cause us to love and care about Him deeply, and want to share His Truth with others.

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Jesus had _____ for His Father's house, so He became very angry to see it dishonored.
- 2** The money-changers wanted to use the _____ as a place to get rich, not to worship God.

- 3** God has given us everything; offering _____ is a way that we can worship by giving something to Him.
- 4** God is holy; we must show _____ to God and to holy things.

Quiz

- 1** What did Jesus do to the money-changers in the temple?
- A** Bought things from them
B Paid them a bonus
C Overturned their tables
D Invited them to lunch
- 2** What sign did Jesus say He would give?
- A** A peace sign
B Heal the sick
C Raise the temple of His Body in three days
D Make the temple shine with gold
- 3** True/False: Like Jesus, we should have zeal for God.
- A** True **B** False

Third Sunday of Lent

X P V E J P Y Q R M M P S W P
 I Y P E L J R E G F N P A M T
 O A S P P P V F Q S W W C G D
 V J Y Y H E M T U T A G R I B
 N B L I R X E E K W K R I H J
 R C T E Y C P G T R G K F C O
 O V N L Y T A S Y D Z Q I T A
 P C O D N I H T B W N R C I B
 E H D N D W I H A V N L E Q Q
 O A J Y H E H D U Q F A S N N
 B D Q D U S V V Z H X E P A P
 P I H S R O W B B Y F Z F Z L
 A E A T A Q L D F B H L B U X
 U U M J V I Z Q Z H D L B C B
 U Y T M R X H R V T D C X N B

HOLY
 REVERENCE
 SACRIFICES
 TEMPLE
 WORSHIP
 ZEAL

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Zeal
2 Temple
3 Sacrifices
4 Reverence

Quiz

- 1** C – Overturned their tables
2 C – Raise the temple of His Body in three days
3 A – True

