



9-12-28 CLEARING THE TEMPLE AREA

Mar. 7, 2021 John 2: 13-25. Ex. 20:1-17

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Last fall we encountered some of this text when we focused on the centrality of the Temple for the feast of the Lateran Basilica. Now we revisit it for the third Sunday of lent and the focus changes dramatically. Fr. Beck writes: "By definition, a temple locates God's presence on earth. It is the place one can expect to encounter God. But now this temple, judged by Jesus in his temple action, and destroyed by Rome before John wrote his Gospel, now this temple is declared null and void. And the place where we should look for the presence of God on earth is in Jesus, wherever he is

bodily present." Pg. 72. Do you see yourself as a bodily representation of Jesus when you make your choices?

Jn. 2:13-25

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. 23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name, for they could see the signs he was performing. 24 For his part, Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all. 25 He needed no one to give him testimony about human nature. He was well aware of what was in man's heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus challenges the accepted religious practices of his day in order to reveal what is true worship. Are there any such practices today that need challenging? Have some of Pope Francis' teaching done this?

PRAYER: Teacher Jesus, you have once again shown us what the Father values by your rejection of a false use of religion as you drive out those who think they have a lock on God. They have turned the Father into a reality that can be bought. The temptation to try to manage God is eternal and those who promise me that they can "fix" it for me for a price are everywhere on the lookout for someone like me. Help me as I try to do the real work of being in right relationship with God as I try to love as you love. Amen