

Formed in Prayer



Let us be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us
Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel

John 1: 13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading? What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?

Reflection

Whilst many pieces of religious art highlight a Christology that is meek, humble and modest, we have an entirely different insight into the zeal, passion and physical strength of Christ in this passage. We also have other forms of strength found in the gentleness of Jesus, which speak to non-violence, truth telling, care and kindness. On this occasion Jesus not only demonstrates a just anger, he also models how Christian Leaders need to be resourceful, controlled, quick minded and direct with their actions. Sometimes it is tempting to respond quickly to an injustice, without fully assessing the situation. However, the process of making a whip out of cords was an intentional act that suggests a premeditated and controlled response.

Being an authentic Catholic Leader requires bravery, strength and courage to be willing to challenge and confront the 'money changers' in our lives. It also takes courage and insight to consider that which needs to be overturned in our own hearts. Jesus explains to his disciples that it is far easier to notice the speck in our neighbours' eye whilst neglecting the log in our own. What are those things that distract you from worshiping God more fully?

(Nathan Ahearne, Marist Mission and Life Formation)

Dear Lord,

Help me to move from lukewarmness.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle the fire of my heart
so I may serve with zeal and humility.
Open my eyes to recognise injustice,
to be the change I want to see
and grant me a humility to overturn those things that lead me away from you.

Amen