

# TO CARE & NOT TO CARE

Lent Sermon Series

Art: "Solens" by Dawn Waters Baker

# SERMON NOTES



March 3, 2024

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

"A Growing Conflagration"

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Exodus 20:1-8, 12-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 25

John 2:13-22

## DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Tim asked the question, "Is your heart just an emporium for the world?" – a place where anything that steals our attention is given pride of place over God. What are some areas of life in which this is a particular temptation?
2. How do you see God at work reordering your cares?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

Our series title this Lent, to care and not to care, is meant to be a prayer to God to teach us what is important, and in our Gospel reading this week, we see very clearly what is important to Jesus. And so, we ask the question, why is Jesus so passionate in this story and what does it teach us?

### The Anger

Why does Jesus get so angry when he walked into the temple? Verse 14 of the passage says that he "found" or "discovered" people selling animals and exchanging money. Tim described this scene like if you were to come home from vacation and find something going on in your house that wasn't of your character, that it was never intended for. Jesus behaves as if he owned the temple, driving everyone out not in violence or hurting people but with authority and passion. He literally says "do not make my father's house into an emporium (or market)."

In true fashion for the Gospel of John, Jesus' claim to divinity is again made clear in that he doesn't say "our Father's" house but "my Father." And no one questions him in that moment. They do later, but they knew exactly who he was from his look and his being. In the same way, when God shows up in our lives, we know both that he is good and life-giving and that he has all authority over us. God doesn't have to explain himself. He does – in the Scriptures, through the Spirit. But he doesn't have to. Jesus has the right to tear down that which is broken and rebuild in us just as he did in the temple.

### The Confusion

Why was it wrong to sell animals and exchange money in the temple? It was a necessary part of the logistics of sacrifice as people traveled from all over the world and couldn't bring the animals with them and didn't have the correct currency. But it was the location that was the problem, in the midst of the noise and haggling and animals, people were supposed to pray. No one could pray here. No one could reflect on their sacrifice. They had squeezed out any form of real pursuit of God and so do we. We give other things pride of place in our lives where God should be. Sin has disordered our hearts and taught us to care and not to care about the wrong things. Jesus comes to his temple, and comes to us to put people back in sync with reality.

### The Difference

What is the difference that Jesus makes? Jesus is the meeting place between God and man. He is both the temple and the sacrifice. The one in whom we have the access to God that no earthly sacrifice could secure. The disciples in this story quoted the Psalm saying "zeal for your house has consumed me." The word "consume" is literally to be torn apart. And Jesus was consumed into death that we might be given new life. If we believe and trust in him, he is already rearranging our internal furniture and making us into a house of prayer.