

Holy Monday

Read: Mark 11:15-19

The King Cleanses The Temple

On Holy Monday, Jesus cleanses the temple and he does it in an interesting fashion. You see, up until this point, Jesus seems calm, cool, and collected. But on this day, he comes into the temple wielding a whip and turns over the tax collector's tables.

Now, flipping tables and cracking whips might seem out of character for Jesus, but there's a reason he does this. The temple is meant to be a holy place, a place that people can go and connect with God, but instead it turned into a worldly, sinful place. It had become a marketplace for profit, not a place of worship. This saddens Jesus and His actions show the seriousness with which He views the holiness of God's house. He cleanses the temple out of love.

For those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit dwells inside of them, making their body a holy temple. While you might not be selling pigeons in the parking lot or collecting money in the church lobby, you might still have a sin or distraction in your life that is keeping you from connecting with God.

If you're anything like our family, it feels like we're constantly on the go with activities, work, social commitments, family gatherings, and volunteering. On the surface, these things aren't necessarily bad, but they are distractions. I take great pride in my career, and it takes up a large space in my life. If I'm not at work, I'm thinking or stressing about it, which leaves very little space for focusing on God. Distractions like this cause us to neglect our spiritual lives. I'm not suggesting you quit your job, but instead, make God your primary focus, not other things. Jesus cleared the temple of worldly distractions, so we need to do the same in our lives.

Take a moment to examine yourself.

- Are there things in your life that are keeping you from connecting with God? Maybe it's your job, pride, bitterness, or an addiction.
- Are you too busy with worldly pursuits?
- What in your life needs to be cleansed so you can make more space for God?

Prayer Prompt

- As we approach Resurrection Sunday, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in your life that may be getting in the way of your relationship with Him. Surrender those things to God and invite Him to cleanse your heart.

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