

# Passion Week *Devotionals*

**Holy Monday**  
by Chloe Cook

**Read | Mark 11:15-17**

Think about Jesus' attributes for a moment. I often like to think about his kindness, or his inclusivity. Maybe you think about his gentleness or his power. But here's a question: how often do we think about his anger? It's a bit heftier to consider. As humans, our anger often leads us to sin. Whether we act on it, or dwell on it too long and harden our hearts — it is easy for anger to become sinful. So how was Jesus angry without sin?

I was recently told a story about a kid who was confused by this passage. He said to his Sunday school teacher, "Jesus only sinned one time!"

The teacher curiously replied, "Where in the Bible does it say that Jesus sinned?"

The student answered, "When he flipped those tables at the temple! Right?"

What a great teaching moment! Yet I think we can relate to this student's train of thought. Our human minds find it hard to comprehend anger without sin.

In that passage, Jesus was embodying the biblical attribute of righteous anger. The sellers in the temple were trying to take advantage of those who wanted to worship God. They were also excluding those who could not afford to purchase a sacrifice. They had turned God's house into something it was never meant to be. Jesus was angry at injustice.

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I tend to get angry about things I can't control. A delayed flight, a story in the news, or maybe a traffic jam. I think we all can agree that these are frustrating things. But do I get angry when I see God's people caring more about the color of the walls in the church than about taking care of the homeless man in their community? Do I get angry when I see Christians look the other way when someone is in need simply because it might be an inconvenience to help? Do I get angry about the things that anger God?

It's beautiful that Jesus can be angry without sin. It's comforting to know that I worship a God who sees the evil and injustice in the world and cares. He cares more than any person who has ever lived. He cares so much that he promises to bring justice to those who have been hurt and taken advantage of. His anger is deeply intertwined with his goodness. Can we say the same?

## **Prayer & Reflection:**

- *God's personality is holistic. Kindness, gentleness, and peace, coexisting with righteous anger, rebuking, and judgement. In what ways is this comforting or intimidating?*
- *Where in your life specifically do you feel like God is calling you to turn to Him in times of anger?*
- *Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you fix your eyes on him. Ask Him to transform your heart to be angry about the right things. Ask Him to help your anger to come from a place of goodness rather than sin.*