

Holy Week - Monday

Scripture Reading

5 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 6 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. 7 And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." 8 And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. 9 And when evening came they went out of the city.

Mark II:15-19

Devotional

It's Monday morning. One day after Jesus rode into Jerusalem while the people shouted Hosanna giving Jesus the praises due a king. On this day, Jesus heads straight to the Temple, the center of life for the Jewish people. Here Jesus begins to disrupt what has become the normal activities inside the Temple. Jesus overturns tables and chairs, he drives out the merchants and their customers, and stops the supply chain entirely. What was intended to be a house of prayer has now become a house of thieves. The place meant to be a place for connection with God has become a connection point for those looking to make money in the name of God. Jesus begins this Holy Week by disrupting the way the Temple had been co-opted for selfish purposes.

As we enter into Holy Week on the other side of the resurrection, we see that because of the work of Jesus, we have become temples of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes in I Corinthians 6:19, that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We have moved from a physical location being the place of communion with God to now our bodies are the temple. Paul continues his train of thought in the next verse that since we are the temple of the Holy Spirit that we need honor God with our bodies since we are not our own. Jesus work on the cross has moved the temple from a physical address in Jerusalem, to you. As we begin Holy Week, has your temple been co-opted by anything for selfish purposes. You are meant to be a house of prayer, a place where God dwells. Is there anything in your Temple that needs to be disrupted by the grace and love of Jesus?

Response

Take some time to think through these questions:

- How would viewing your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit transform how you see yourself? How would it change how you interact with God and others?
- What are the biggest temptations you face that would turn your temple into a house of prayer to a den of robbers?
- Spend some time in praising asking God this question: What does Jesus need to disrupt in your temple?

