

3rd Sunday of Lent, year B

A Biblical Reflection on the Readings by Fr Kevin Walsh Sydney Australia.

Exodus 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

From time to time, there are certain things that we say, 'get under our skin.' That means something or a particular action done by others really irritates us. Maybe it is while driving the car, and some people do not indicate if they are turning left or right, and just do it and nearly cause an accident.

Of course, there are lots of levels of daily irritation, some can be really serious, others just a fact of living with others.

In the Gospel today, Jesus has really got something under his skin; it was a serious situation which caused Jesus to become deeply upset. It happened in the Temple, the place of gathering for worship; in fact, it was Holy Ground due to the activity that took place there.

When Jesus turned up, the whole place was in a mess; it had been turned into a marketplace; it was the opposite to a reflective and community response to God's Word worship. Jesus got incredibly angry because of this, and turfed them all out, and upset their counters. Things just went flying! Why???? This is the pivotal point of the Gospel today and it is reinforced by the first and second readings.

The highpoint in the Old Testament was the deliverance of the Lord God's chosen people from slavery in Egypt, and the promise of a new and fertile land for them, where water, food and freedom would await them. Enroute to The Promised Land, the Covenant Relationship initiated by the Lord God, would be the summit of their relationship to a jealous God who loves them unconditionally! This marriage like union proved the extent to which the Lord God would go for his people.

In today's first Reading from the Book of Exodus, we see the charter that gives us the guidelines for our faithfulness to the Covenant.

In the second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, we see the early Church, reflecting upon Jesus as the human face of the Father, and the lengths to which Jesus went to manifest the unconditional love, freely given by the Father at the cost of his Son.

Keeping all this in mind, we can see why Jesus was so steamed up when he saw the Market Sellers and Money changers in the Temple. The Holy Place: where the faith and worship of the living community was violated. The coming Passover which was due to be celebrated was defaced by this abhorrent activity of the people.

On this third Sunday of Lent, there is a distinct challenge for all of us to renew our personal commitment to God.

Do we cherish our inner Sanctuary?

*Do we feed our Christ centered Spirituality by Word?
Through Prayer? And Thoughtfulness to others?*

*Our God is jealous about us! Are we just as enlivened to
continue the Mission of our Living Christ, individually and
as a community every day?*

*Is our love for God manifested in proportion to our sisters
and brothers? Food for Thought.*

