

THE GOOD NEWS
WEEKLY
 Third Sunday of Lent (B)
 John 2:13-25 • March 7, 2021

The Anger of the Lord



GOSPEL THEME

The Temple of God cannot be destroyed because it is the Body of Christ.

Tables overturned. Animals running loose. Birds flying about. Coins and papers strewn all over the floor. And in the center of it all is “gentle” Jesus of Nazareth, eyes blazing with anger, demanding that people “stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

This was the scene for the opening of the Passover celebration at the Temple in Jerusalem. The holy city was teeming with Jewish pilgrims who had come from every corner of the world to

celebrate the holy days. What was going on?

Those who came from far away had to exchange their foreign coins for Jewish ones. The money changers were there to serve them, but they were giving them only half what their coins were worth and they were keeping the profits for themselves.

The pilgrims wished to make an offering while at the Temple. To do that, they had to buy animals for the “sacrifice.” Sellers were lining their own pockets at

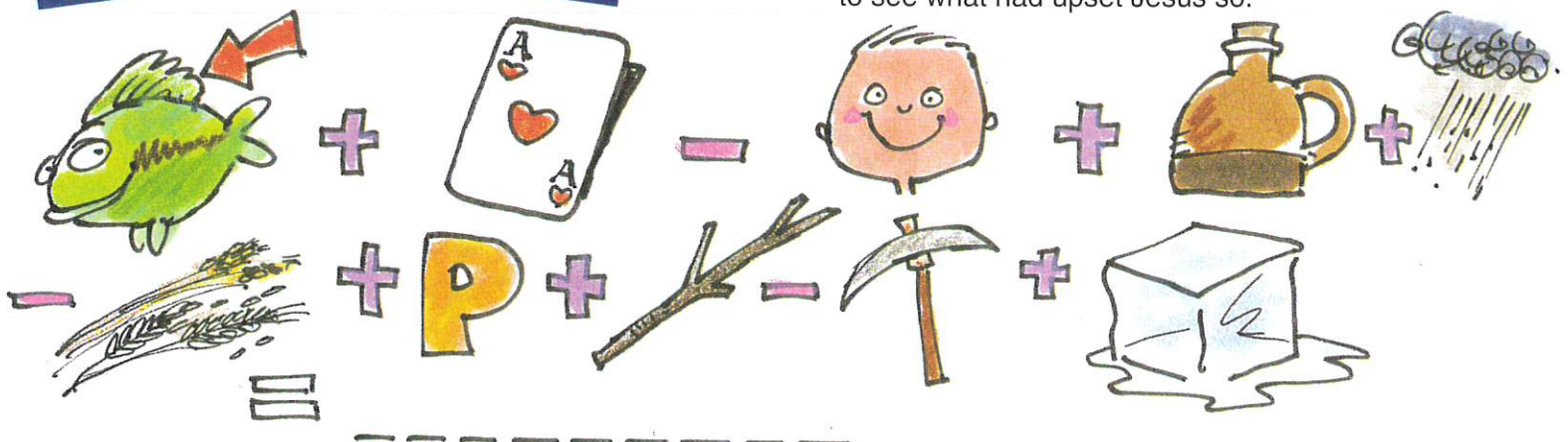
the expense of the faithful, charging them far more than the animals were worth.

Jesus was outraged at the unjust treatment of the people. They had come in faith, traveling long distances to worship God, and they were being ripped off by the very persons who should have been serving their needs.

Jesus met injustice and irreverence with purposeful action. May this serve to remind us of our own responsibility to treat all neighbors and all places of worship with justice and reverence.

SCRIPTURE REBUS

Jesus was very angry when he saw what was going on at the Temple in Jerusalem. Solve the rebus to see what had upset Jesus so.



SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class
or Family



Answer to
"Scripture Acrostic":
Fin + ace - face + jug + rain - grain
+ P + stick - pick + ice = Injustice

Sometimes the injustice in the world leaves us feeling helpless and ineffective. Yet if we add together the little things that each person can do to share God's love with others, we can make a difference. A good Lenten project is one that reaches out in love to those around us, especially those who are victims of injustice: the elderly, the poor, the minorities in our neighborhoods. Here is a project you can put into practice this Lent and continue right through the Easter season.

1 Fill a wide-mouthed jar or a bowl with pennies and put in a place where it is readily available to all members of the family or class.

2 Next to your jar of pennies, place a closed container with a slit in the top (a salt box would do nicely). This box can be decorated, if you wish.

3 Whenever anyone does something kind for another person, whether a family member or a classmate or someone outside the group altogether, he or she may transfer a penny to the closed box.

4 By the time Pentecost arrives (the end of the Easter season), your box should be quite full. It could then be taken to church and given as an offering to the poor — an offering of yourselves and of your resources.



A Meditation for the Third Week of Lent

Theme: Righteous Anger

Scripture: Mark 11:15-18

How do you feel when you see someone doing something you believe is wrong? What can all of you together do about the injustices in your neighborhood, school, and community?