

Theme - Sacred Spaces

“His disciples recalled the words of scripture, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’”

Verse 17, John 2:13-22



Adults

1. Today's gospel reading invites us into a deeper reflection on the meaning of *church*. Jesus, obviously upset at what was going on at the temple, drove out the money-changers and merchants from the temple area. He stated that they were making a market-place out of the Father's house. What are things in your life that could use a reset or a good cleaning?
2. Following this, the Judean's want an answer from Jesus: "What sign can you show us for doing this?" When Jesus responds, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." What is he saying in this statement?
3. The Basilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome has served as the main church of Rome since the year 324 CE. It is more than just a church, it is a symbol of the people of God. Is there a specific church or sacred space that serves as a spiritual home for you?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Forgetting the significance of sacred spaces.

Teens

1. How do you imagine people reacted when they saw Jesus flipping tables and driving people out of the temple? How do you feel about Jesus showing anger here? Does it change how you see Him? Jesus was passionate about keeping the temple holy. What are some "temples" in your life (your body, mind, church, friendships) that you struggle with keeping holy?
2. If Jesus walked into your school, phone, or social media feed, what might He want to "clean out"? What are some "distractions" or "clutter" that can get in the way of your relationship with God? How can you help keep our church or youth group a place that reflects God's presence and respect?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up"? How does that connect to Easter and your own faith?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not fully understanding the sacredness of God's presence in the Church, in the Eucharist and even in our own bodies.

Children

1. Why do you think Jesus acted so powerfully to protect the temple? What ways do you take special care of our Church, the home of God our Father?
2. Did you know that your home is often referred to in our Catholic theology as the "church of the home" or the "domestic church"? Thinking of our homes as church, how do you think God wants us to act and care for our homes? What are some ways you take care of your home?
3. We believe, as disciples of Jesus, that the Holy Spirit lives within us. How important do you think it is that we take good care of our bodies? What ways do you do this?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not caring for our Church and homes with love and good stewardship.

