Year B - Third Sunday of Lent
John 2:13-22

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.



Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover,
Jesus went to Jerusalem.
There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple.
He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables.
So he took some rope and made a whip.
Then he chased everyone out of the temple,
together with their sheep and cattle.
He turned over the tables of the
moneychangers and scattered their coins.
Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves,
"Get those doves out of here!
Don't make my Father's house a marketplace."
The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say,
"My love for your house burns in me like a fire."
The Jewish leaders asked Jesus,
"What miracle will you work to show us why you have done this?"
"Destroy this temple," Jesus answered,
"and in three days I will build it again!"
The leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple.
What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?"
But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple.
And when he was raised from death,
his disciples remembered what he had told them.
Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

Year B - Third Sunday of Lent
John 2:13-22

We are a temple of God's love

Message

- Just like Jesus, we are a temple of God's love. Jesus challenges us to make room for God by getting rid of the things that stop us from knowing God more fully.
- In our Gospel today we see Jesus frustrated with the way others were treating the Temple.
- In the Gospel's, we don't often see Jesus frustrated however the Temple, a sacred place where people came to pray, worship and give thanks to God was being not being used for the right reasons.
- This made Jesus sad!
- Jesus also said his body is a temple. Just like Jesus, we are a temple of God's love. Jesus wants us to make special room for God and not let ourselves get distracted by actions or needs that draw us away from God's love.
- It's like we need to clean away all the messiness just like Jesus did with the Temple.
- In the Gospel he says, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." Jesus loves us so much that he wants us to be that love for others.
- In Lent we have the great opportunity to do this. We are able to commit to growing closer to God's love and to being more intentional with sharing this love with others.
- Some ways we do this is through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- How have you engaged in prayer this so far this Lent? Has it been challenging or has it been easy?
- What have you given up or fasting from this Lent? Has it been challenging or has it been easy?
- How have you served others this Lent? Has it been challenging or has it been easy?

Discussion

- Imagine what it would have been like to be there in the temple with Jesus?
- Have you ever been frustrated?
- How does it make you feel?
- What are some things you do that make you frustrated?
- How do they stop you from growing closer to God?

