

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK****The Third Sunday of Lent****March 7, 2021****Breaking Open the Word****STEP ONE: Listen to the Word****For Faith Sharing—Gospel:** John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this? Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

**QUESTION 1:** As you hear this Gospel today, what touches your heart?**STEP TWO: Look into Your Life****QUESTION 2:** (for children): What steps can you take during Lent to make sure that you choose to do good things for others?**QUESTION 3** (for youth): What needs changing in your life right now? How will you invite God into that change?**QUESTION 4** (for adults): What steps are you taking this Lent to make sure that your faith bears fruit in good works?**Reading I:** Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me. You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or serve them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their ancestors' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation, but showing love down to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain For the LORD will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Reading II:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**HNJ MISSION STATEMENT:** Jesus calls us, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

### **OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S GOSPEL**

John, the Evangelist, is a master of symbolism, foreshadowing, and words that have a deeper meaning. The Passover context of today's gospel is the first clue that what is taking place is pointing ahead to Jesus' own future Passover, that will take place in Jerusalem. His conflict with the money changers foreshadows his future, final conflict with Jerusalem authorities. All four canonical gospels have an account of Jesus driving out the money-changers, **but only in John is it placed at the beginning rather than at the end of Jesus' ministry.** The early placement of the scene serves as an introduction and foreshadowing of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This scene taking place on a certain Passover at the beginning of Jesus' ministry prepares us for another Passover when the temple of Jesus' body will be (temporarily) destroyed only to be raised up. [Elaine Park, STD, Workbook for Lectors, 71-72]