

Meditations for the Third Week of Lent

WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD

Out of the Temple

John 2:13-25

When Jesus saw the money-changers, merchants, sheep, oxen, and doves at the Temple, he became angered, not because of what they were doing, but because of where they were doing it. Making the act of worship into a commercial, for-profit enterprise by selling those animals within the Temple made a mockery of a sacred duty.

The temptation to turn faith into profit is still with us. Today, as in Jesus' time, there is wealth to be made in religion and spirituality. At the same time, there is a pull to make Sunday

worship into just another thing we do every week, instead of a true act of reverence. When we come to Mass, we can be distracted by worldly affairs, more concerned with what we (or someone else) is wearing, even slipping out early so that we can get on with "real life." In today's Gospel, Jesus is showing us that the time we give to God needs to be given freely and fully — without being compromised by anything else. This Lent, let us make the time we spend at Mass a highlight of our week.

FOR REFLECTION

- › When I attend Mass, am I fully aware that I am in the presence of God during that time?
- › When was the last time I went to confession?
- › As we enter the third week of Lent, what progress have I made spiritually? Do I need to make a "course correction" for the remaining weeks?

Lenten Prayer

Unto you, I cry, my God!

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God."

— Psalm 42:1

My Lord, as we enter into the third week of Lent, help me to put aside worldly concerns and focus more deeply and completely on you.