

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius

November 9, 2014

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Lectionary: 671

Gospel [in 2:13-22](#)

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.

Spiritual Reflection:

They money changers and sellers are selling God's mercy by forcing people to purchase certain animals for sacrifices. They have no right to because God wants to give His mercy away free.

Spiritual Question:

1. What does it take to receive God's forgiveness?
2. What does it say about God that He gives His mercy to us freely?
3. Is it a sign of strength or weakness on God's part?
4. What does the world think about forgiveness?
5. When in the Gospels does Jesus ultimately freely give away God's mercy?