

Before we read, we pray together:

God our Father, source of all light, You have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send Your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

HEARING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!* You have the words of eternal life!

Read the text 2-3 times. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words or phrases in the passage strike you or surprise you?
2. The traders were selling the Temple offerings. How did Jesus react to this? What is at the root of his reaction?
3. What is Jesus' hope (dream) for the Temple?
- 5: When do the disciples understand what Jesus is saying and doing? How long does it take them to realize what's going on?



HAPPENING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!* Make your word alive for us today! How is this story our story?

Read the text again. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. Jesus sees the temple trading as a distraction from the real activity of God's house. What is the true activity of God's house today?
2. Who is like Jesus in our country, in our world, in our Church, disturbing, disrupting what we take for granted?
3. Who in our lives and in our Church is like Jesus and consumed with passion and zeal for the things of God?
4. How are we like the disciples for whom the penny drops? What insights about the Lord and about life have we eventually come to see?

