



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

March 8, 2015

Third Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31 (27)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



Cleaning the House. *Object: Some cleaning items: broom, mop, sponges, etc.* Mops, brooms, sponges, a dust cloth... what do we use these things for? We use them when we clean house, don't we? Do you ever help your mom with the cleaning around your house? I don't know about your mom, but there were many times when my mom thought our house needed cleaning when it looked just fine to me. Well, how do you know when it's time to clean house? Well here are some signs that will definitely let you to know that it is time to clean house.

- It is time to clean house when your feet stick to the floor when you walk through the kitchen.
- It is time to clean house when your mother can't find you when she comes into your room to wake you up in the morning.
- It is time to clean house when the kids in the neighborhood use their fingers to write "wash me" in the dirt on your windows.
- It is time to clean house when there are more dishes in the kitchen sink than there are in the cabinets.
- It is time to clean house when you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.

Well, I think you get the idea! I know that your house never gets THAT dirty, but the truth of the matter is, we all need to do a little house cleaning at times.

Today we are going to learn about a time when Jesus did some house cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. He couldn't believe what he saw. Right there in the temple area he saw people who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves to be used as sacrifices in the temple. There were even tables set up where men were changing money so that people could pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a flea market than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what he saw. He was so angry that he picked up a piece of rope, made a whip, and drove the cattle, sheep, and those who were selling them out of the temple. Next, he went to the money changers and turned their tables over, scattering coins all over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves he said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." I would say that Jesus did some serious house cleaning in the temple that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we should also be reminded that there is some other cleaning that needs to be done. The Bible tells us that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in us. (1 Cor. 3:16) The season of Lent is a good time for us to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be cleansed. Are there some areas of your life where you need to do some house cleaning? I know there are in mine!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God. Alleluia (1 Cor. 1:23-24)

Father, help us to remember that we are your temple and that your Spirit lives in us. Help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Word Search Puzzle

C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N
H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V
A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S
N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C
G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A
E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T
R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T
S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E
H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R
J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E
P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D
E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V
W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z
N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S
K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS

TEMPLE ART: Give each child a piece of heavy paper/poster board and help them to draw or trace a large temple. Let the children use colored markers to decorate the windows of their temple to look like stain glass art. The children might also glue craft sticks on the drawing to create the look of a roof on the temple. When the temple is finished, have the children draw a sign beside their temple with an arrow that says, "Worship Here".

TEMPLE KEYS: Let the children cut out several keys that the teacher has prepared before class time. ([Key Template](#)) On each key, the children will write something important that we SHOULD do in our church. (Examples: one key can say worship, another key can say praise, another key can say sing, another key can say pray, etc.) Give children an inexpensive key ring to hook their Temple Keys onto and take home to hang on their wall!

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE



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