

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Scripture: John 2:13-22

Date: March 7, 2021

Message: *His disciples remembered that it was written "Zeal for your house will consume me." ... 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.*

John 2:17, 22

As I pondered these verses, I was caught by the word zeal, and wondered, what does zeal for your house convey to me? How am I consumed by zeal for Her house?

In this penitential season, what might it mean to be consumed by zeal? Zeal means great energy or enthusiasm for a cause or objective. Am I enthusiastic for God? Do I display great energy in my devotion time or in my worship? What is the objective of my worship, my prayer time? Is the goal for me to experience some wonderful feeling, some brilliant insight into God? To understand some mystery that has eluded me thus far. I don't think so, at least not for me. My worship, my prayers, and the disciplines I chose are to bring me further into a relationship with the God I love, and that I believe loves me.

When I can be quiet and still in Her Presence, God through the Holy Spirit can touch me more deeply, even when I don't "hear" words, or feel something special. And in this quiet I can reflect on Jesus' words and wonder if I really understood what he said. Or like the disciples, do I have to look back and see the meaning that I misconstrued? Do I have to change my tack and try a new direction? Lent is a good time to look back at where I have stifled growth by resisting the nudges of the Spirit, and to look forward; forward to a changing relationship with God, a deeper reliance and God's presence within me, within us, within Her Church, and with all Her people and creation.

Prayer: *God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.*