

Third Sunday of Lent

March 6/7, 2021

Here in John's Gospel, we have the ritual of Passover as the context for this event.

Every year the Jewish people were expected to go to Jerusalem to join in the ritual of Passover. Each family was to bring either a lamb for slaughter or the best fruits and vegetables from their farm. All would eagerly journey to Jerusalem, walking days to complete their journey.

Now here was the problem: By the time pilgrims would arrive at the Temple, the animal or their crops would have died or wilted; no longer acceptable for ritual offering. So, Market Managers would set up shop around the Temple area offering fresh offerings for sale so they could participate in the rituals of sacrifice. Of course, the cost to purchase these offerings would be exorbitant.

So, Jesus and the Apostle arrive in Jerusalem and, going to the Temple courtyard, discover this unfair treatment of these disadvantaged Pilgrims. So besides thinking that Jesus cleared the Temple to return honor to the House of God, even more, did Jesus lash out at the unjust treatment of the poor pilgrims. His anger is directed toward the oppression of the poor. The same kind of anger we should have today. To cry out against the oppression of the poor.