

**Meditation 2014-03-11**  
**Tuesday Of The First Week Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “Righteous Anger!”**

**Place yourself** in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

**A**T that time, when Jesus was come into Jerusalem, the whole city was moved, saying: Who is this? And the people said: This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth of Galilee. And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the chairs of them that sold doves: And he saith to them: It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves. And there came to him the blind and the lame in the temple; and he healed them. And the chief priests and scribes, seeing the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying: Hosanna to the son of David; were moved with indignation. And said to him: Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus said to them: Yea, have you never read: Out of the mouth of infants and of sucklings thou hast perfected praise? And leaving them, he went out of the city into Bethania, and remained there.

**Point 1.** – The Temple In Jerusalem, the only temple in the Jewish religion, would only accept money in Temple coinage, so the money changers sold temple coins to the Jews who came from all around the world carrying different kinds of money, and they sold it at a tidy profit. They preyed upon their fellow Jews.

**Point 2.** – Jesus expelled these from the temple, calling them thieves. He expressed and acted upon a “just rage.”

**Point 3.** – Jesus did his just work, curing the blind and the lame. And when the people, the “children” praised Him for doing this, the Priests and the Scribes scorned Him in their indignation, and Jesus put them in their place.

**Meditation:** Jesus drove from the temple those who made a profit from their religion. Was this Just? Was the practice of accepting offerings only in temple currency not “traditional?” Does Jesus know what the temple was for?

What standard did Jesus apply here? Is there a law above that which governed this kind of commerce? If the money changers were doing something unjust, what was it? How was it unjust? Might they not have done their business outside of the temple? Did they gain benefit from operating within the temple? A competitive edge, maybe? Do I understand Jesus’ righteous anger? If I had been there, would I have been angry? Or would I have accepted that sometimes things are “just the way they are?” Am I supposed to take action against the evil in this world?

If I had been in the temple, and had seen Jesus healing all the people, would I have praised Him loudly? Or would I have “hushed” myself at the insistence of the Chief Priests and the Scribes? Were the people right to praise Him? Do I ever witness miracles? Do I praise God for them? Publicly? Is it right for me to do so?

**Colloquy:** Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

**Hold the Gain:** Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.