

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Exodus 20:1-17*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1: 22-25*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *John 2:13-25*

The cleansing of the temple!!! ; what's your image of Jesus as he went about in his public ministry? calm!, well behaved, mild mannered and approachable ; they called him "Rabbi" which is a title of respect among the Jews ; But one fine day that all changed in the Temple in Jerusalem ; the Rabbi saw a sacred place being turned into a market, he reacted violently **MAKING A WHIP OUT OF SOME CORD, HE DROVE THEM ALL OUT OF THE TEMPLE, SCATTERED THE MONEY CHANGERS' COINS, KNOCKED THEIR TABLES OVER.....**"take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market"

Was the Lord's anger justified? of course it was, they had turned a sacred place of worship into a place of business, our Lord was obviously deeply offended by what he saw.

Is it possible for God to be offended by us human beings who have been given the use-of-reason? If God is so powerful and all loving, then how could He be offended by anything? Is there an answer to that? Yes, there is! look no further than the things that offended Jesus, the Son of God or God made man in the person of Jesus ; whatever offended Jesus also offended the Heavenly Father ; when Jesus was referred to as a glutton, a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors, also when they said of him **IT'S THRU' THE PRINCE OF DEMONS THAT HE CASTS OUT DEMOMS** (Mark 3 ; 22) did all that offend Jesus? Of course it did, then so also the Heavenly Father was offended ; WHEN you and I, with clear knowledge and full consent, go against the sacred laws of God, then He is offended ; for example, the 1st commandment clearly states **I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, YOU MUST NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME** or from the Gospel **FIRST YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL** it's as if the Lord our God is saying to us (all of us!!)

"WHEN YOU PUT WORLDLINESS, MATERIALISM, LOVE OF SELF, GIVING YOURSELF PRIDE-OF-PLACE IN EVERYTHING, AND IGNORING ALL THAT IS SACRED, THEN YES!!, I AM OFFENDED.

Anything at all that goes against the sacredness of life is an offence to God ; life in the womb is very sacred, and with over 600 abortions being carried out on the average working day here in the U.K., do you think the lord-of-Life just “goes off whistling”? or when some poor drug addict is beaten to death for not “paying-up”!!, or when hard working employees are denied a just wage..... is God sensitive to these and more wrong-doing that we humans impose on each other? Of course he is! Just as the Temple in Jerusalem was(is) a sacred place, so also is our human mortal frame. Each of has a very sacred part, referred to as the SOUL, and our soul can communicate with the Author-of-Life, that’s the purpose of the soul. Presently in this Pandemic, how healthy is your soul? the care of the soul is just as important as the care of the body, mind and emotions.

So in the context of that violent incident in the Temple where the offended Saviour lashes out, is there something presently in your life that may be offensive to God? this of course calls for an examination of conscience, then what?? repent, make amends, carry out a specific act of charity, pray for someone you don’t particularly like nor get on with, make an effort to change from WITHIN, go to Confession, express your sorrow thru’ prayer, almsgiving or fasting, anything else ? ? ? ? Let us do all we can to be better reconciled to the God and Father of us all ; basically we offend God by not putting him FIRST in our lives, just like the people in the Temple, it was more important for them to be selling cattle, sheep and pigeons in a sacred place instead of worshipping the Heavenly Father, so is it any wonder the way Jesus reacted the way he did?

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As there are now positive signs of a slow easing of the Lockdown restrictions, many workers are anxious about their job situation, as in, “WILL MY BOSS INFORM ME WHEN I CAN RETURN TO WORK? or

“WILL MY BOSS INFORM ME THAT THERE’S NO JOB TO GO BACK TO?” this is an awful time for zero contract workers, many more workers fall into a similar uncertainty having worked for years with well established firms and companies, a return to work is not guaranteed ; pray a Rosary this weekend for the above mentioned..

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