

Gospel Reflection

For what do I have zeal that consumes me?

This weekend's Gospel contains a quote from Psalm 69 – "Zeal for your house shall consume me." Zeal means passion, a consuming love, the willingness to spend oneself on behalf of the beloved. When he saw the money-changers in the temple, Jesus was moved to action and drove them out of the sacred space. The temple precincts were being used for commerce instead of for worship!

Then, after dramatically making right what was wrong by overturning the tables and scattering the merchants, Jesus went on to tell his disciples and the Jews who questioned his behavior, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." They didn't understand it then, but he was foreshadowing his death and resurrection. He knew that he was about to be "used up" entirely – utterly spent and consumed by the destruction of the temple of his body for the salvation of the world. "Zeal for your house shall consume me."

Who are the moneychangers in the temple today? Certainly there have been many contemporary issues that have soiled the reputation of the Church and taken our time and attention away from the worship of God and the service of our brothers and sisters. We can flee from the "corruption" and division in the Church or we can choose to invest ourselves more deeply and seek to be part of its purification. We can leave in disappointment and anger or stay and use our gifts and talents to be a part of the change we seek.

At root, it's a fundamental stewardship question. For what am I zealous? For what will I spend myself? I can use God's gifts selfishly, simply for my own gain, or actively misuse the gifts of God like the moneychangers. Or I can give myself in love to the Lord and use the gifts God has given me to help build up God's kingdom in my little corner of the world.

To what am I willing to give myself entirely?

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 2:13-22

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

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

DISCIPLES	DOVES	PASSOVER
JERUSALEM	ZEAL	MONEY CHANGERS
OVERTURNED	OXEN	FATHER'S HOUSE
RAISE IT UP	SHEEP	STEWARDSHIP
SCRIPTURE	TEMPLE	LIVING STONES

Disciple's Reflection* & Questions of the Week

*Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
11/9/2008*

*John 2:13-22
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



**(The Gospel reflections for the 3 weeks of our parish stewardship renewal are being written by members of the OLA Stewardship Committee. This week's reflection is by Ana Nogales-Till and Sharon Hueckel.)*

Our Lady of the Assumption

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 2:13-22*

The Gospel according to John

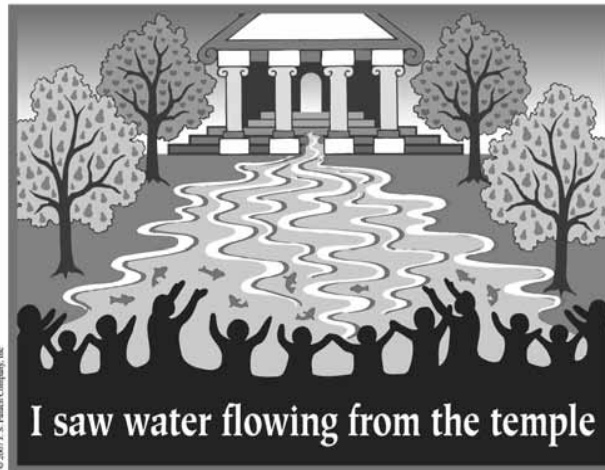
Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the Temple area those who sold **oxen, sheep and doves**, as well as the **money changers** seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and the oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a market place."

His disciples recalled the **words of Scripture**, "***Zeal for your house shall consume me.***" At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will rise it up."

The Jews said, "This temple has been

under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

oxen, sheep and doves: the animals sold in the Temple area to be used as sacrifices.

money changers: These people were present because every male Jew, 19 years old or older, had to pay a Temple tax of one half-shekel coin.

words of Scripture: from Psalm 69:10.

Zeal: energetic and unflagging enthusiasm, especially for a cause or idea.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What does it mean that Jesus used the Temple as a symbol for himself?
- Is my zeal for my faith obvious in my daily life? In what ways?
- Do I appreciate and help care for the holy places in my life?

Closing Prayer

God our Father,

*From living stones, your chosen people,
you built an eternal temple to your glory.
Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to
your Church, so that your faithful people
may continue to grow into the new and
eternal Jerusalem.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen.*

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica