

not possibly be the case when He had just cured them. No, His indignation was righteous, aimed at the sin of disobedience; a disobedience to Jesus' clear command, a disobedience contrary to the will of God and a disobedience which Jesus foresaw as detrimental to His ministry. All three men had come to Him as Lord. The two blind men asked Him, as 'Son of David' to take pity on them. When he asked if they believed He could do this, they replied: "Lord, we do". Yet after receiving His divine healing, they flouted His clear command and put Him in danger. That is why Jesus was justifiably indignant with them, while no doubt still loving them.

-Stephen Stewart

Entrance antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2: 21-23

Psalms 89: Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your Word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C, 2022

Weekly Reflection: Jesus and Anger (3) In the two previous articles I discussed the difference between passionate, sinful anger directed against a person and righteous anger directed

against wrongdoing. I gave, as an example of the latter, Jesus' anger at the onlookers plotting to destroy Him when He cured the man with the withered hand. I next wish to consider two incidents in the Gospels where the English language does not convey the force of the original Greek. In St Matthew (9:30) Jesus cures the blindness of two men and "...sternly warned them, 'Take care that no one learns about this'". In St Mark (1:43) Jesus, having cured a leper, "...sternly sent him away..." with a similar message. These stern warnings are a translation of the Greek word *embrimaomai*. The word means to snort with rage, or to express strong indignation, i.e. a deep feeling that leads to stern admonishment.

So, Jesus did express Himself with some anger when He healed the blind men and the leper. As one biblical commentator wrote: "Jesus is represented here as taking up a menacing attitude and threatening words are placed on his lips". Why should He do this, particularly with men whom He had just cured? The two blind men, despite the severe warning, went away and talked about Him all over the countryside. The leper went away and started telling the story everywhere. All three men immediately disobeyed Him. Jesus had foreknowledge of what they would do. His love was such that He healed them. His love was also such that He gave them the most austere warning against disobedience. In the leper's case we are told that the consequence of that disobedience was that Jesus could no longer go openly into the town but had to stay outside in deserted places.

Jesus' anger or indignation was not expressed as a passionate anger against those He had cured. Much less did it wish any wrong upon them. That could