

makes clear what is obvious on proper analysis, namely that Jesus was expressing proper, righteous anger. It was based on reason and justified outrage at the misuse of the Temple.

There is an understandable misconception about this incident, according to many scholars. The outer court of the Temple was not supposed to be like a modern church. The sale of animals for sacrifice was essential. So was the changing of money from various currencies into the shekel, the currency in which the Temple tax had to be paid. Jesus' actions were directed at money changers because they were unlawfully requiring interest. They were directed against the dove sellers because they were exploiting the poor. Doves were sold as creatures of sacrifice to the poor, who could not afford lambs. Doves were the poor person's substitute, as permitted by Leviticus 5:7. When Jesus was presented as a child at the Temple, Mary and Joseph, as poor people, offered two turtle doves as sacrifice – Luke 2:24. Jesus described the money changers and the dove sellers as 'bandits' because their actions in the outer court of the Temple were unlawful and abusive towards the poor. This was the commerce that misused the Temple whose primary purpose was to be a house of prayer.

-Stephen Stewart

Entrance antiphon: A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

First Reading: Apocalypse 11: 19,12:1-6,10

Psalm 44: Response: On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 15: 20-26

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56

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

Communion Antiphon: All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.



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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(The Assumption of the Blessed virgin Mary)

Cycle C, 2022 Weekly Reflection: Jesus and Anger (5) This is the final article in this series in which we have

considered (i) the difference between sinful passionate anger on the one hand and non-sinful righteous anger on the other; (ii) some instances of the latter in the Gospels. I have left till last what is often thought to be the most obvious example of Jesus expressing anger, namely the driving out of the money changers and dove sellers from the Temple. All four Gospels record this incident (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 15-17; Luke 19:45; John 2:14-17). The first 3 Gospels describe the incident in similar fashion. So, for example, St Matthew writes: *"Jesus then went into the Temple and drove out all those who were selling and buying there; he upset the tables of the money-changers and the seats of the dove-sellers. He said to them, 'According to scripture, my house will be called a house of prayer; but you are turning it into a bandits' den.'"* None of these 3 Gospels explicitly attributes any emotion to Jesus in acting as He did. However, the inference that He was angry is made in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (para 584) where it states that He was angered that the Temple's outer court had become a place of commerce.

St John's Gospel is different. He writes: *"...in the Temple He found people selling cattle and sheep and doves, and the money changers sitting there. Making a whip out of cord, He drove them all out of the Temple..... scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the dove sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop using my Father's house as a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: I am eaten up with zeal for your house."* The disciples' reaction is to recall the words of Psalm 69:9 and to attribute Jesus' emotional state as one of zeal. Zeal, or zealous anger, represents an ardent feeling of righteous indignation. This