

Jesus clears the Temple of vendors

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus woke up early in the morning. He wanted to go to Jerusalem with some of his disciples for the Feast of Passover, which was only a few days away. He found the city crowded with Jews from all over the country and even neighboring countries. He walked through the happy crowd on his way to the Temple. The sense of celebration was contagious, and Jesus greeted people as he passed through the streets. When he reached the Temple, his mood quickly changed to anger because of what he saw there.

The Temple did not look like a place of worship. Instead, it looked like a farmers' market. Vendors were selling oxen, sheep and doves to be used for sacrifice. Money-changers were making change and exchanging foreign currency so the adult men could pay the Temple tax.

Jesus found several strong cords and made a whip out of them. He cracked the whip at everyone who was selling things in the Temple area. Vendors ran in every direction to get away from him, taking their livestock with them. Jesus took the cash boxes from the money changers and dumped their money on the ground. Then, with very harsh words, he confronted the men who were selling the doves.

"Take these out of here and stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

As they watched, some of the disciples remembered the words of one of the Psalms, "Zeal for your house



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

will consume me."

The vendors were not happy that Jesus was interrupting their business, so one of them said, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus stood defiantly and answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

Some of the Jews laughed at what Jesus said. Others became angry. Someone shouted out, "This Temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

But Jesus was not talking about the building that he had just chased the merchants out of; he was referring to his own body. The disciples heard what Jesus said, but they did not understand until after Jesus had been resurrected.

Jesus continued to preach and perform signs while he was in Jerusalem, and many people believed in him.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

John 2

Q&A

1. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem?
2. What did Jesus say about the Temple?

Bible Accent

The Feast of Passover was celebrated by the Israelites to recall when God delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he was looking for a place to hold the Passover meal with his disciples.

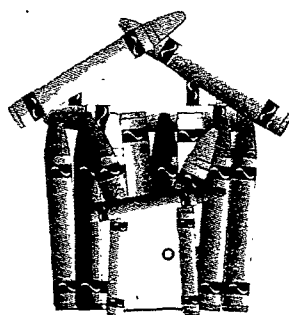
The church teaches that on the day of Pentecost, after the Resurrection of Jesus, the Passover was fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

St. John of God

Born in Portugal, a man named John was a soldier under the King of Aragon in Castile in the 1520s and fought many wars.

Wanting to change the life of Portugal, John decided to serve God through prayer. He was a fully sold soldier to the Lord and his wife. After a long time, he was a soldier of Jesus. He became a saint and a model for all Christians. He died in 1550 and was canonized in 1900.

John of God visited John and spoke with him. John was healed and returned from his institution. He dedicated the rest of his life to helping the sick and the poor and directed the work of his own. A modern man throughout his life, after his death in 1900 he was known as John of God. We remember him on March 8.



Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to Why are lay ministers so important to our churches?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is March 20. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Abigail Pruitt, a seventh-grader at Roth Middle School in Henrietta. In response to **How can we show people we care about them even when they hurt us?** she wrote, "When someone hurts you, most people will keep a grudge. What we all need to learn is that no matter what they do to make you feel rejected, sad, or maybe like nobody cares about what you believe, you need to forgive them. Jesus teaches us in the Bible to forgive the people that make you feel angry. There is a saying that says when someone teases you, it's because they have a low self-esteem about themselves. A courageous thing that you could do for that person is to forgive them, because they don't really mean it. Love and treat others the way you would want to be treated."

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Puzzle

Using Exodus 20 as a guide, fill in the blank with the word that correctly completes each of the following Commandments. Answers on page 13.

1. You shall have no other _____ besides me.
temples, gods, kings
2. You shall not take the _____ of the Lord in vain.
kingdom, name, house
3. Keep _____ the Sabbath day.
holy, clean, safe
4. _____ your father and mother.
Serve, Honor, Obey
5. You shall not _____
cry, kill, speak
6. You shall not _____
steal, work, struggle
7. You shall not bear false _____ against your neighbor.
gifts, memories, witness