

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent B Homily

The first part of the gospel reading for this Sunday of Lent sometimes takes people by surprise. It is not often that the gospel describes Jesus using physical force to make a point.

Did Jesus really do that? What do you think? If he really did that then didn't he commit a sin? He was obviously angry and used physical force against the possessions of others. He did something that caused others to have to put their possessions back in order.

No, Jesus did not commit a sin. His anger with those in the temple area selling things was justified; it is known as righteous indignation. Jesus was making the point that people need to respect God's Temple. The Temple in Jerusalem was dedicated for the sole purpose of offering worship to God. Jesus was telling people they need to stop using the Temple and the Temple grounds for business purposes and instead focus on the spiritual purpose of the Temple.

When Jesus spoke about the temple of his body the people misunderstood him. They thought he was talking about the Temple building. It is easy to understand their misunderstanding because Jesus did not explicitly tell them he was talking about his body; not the Temple building.

We know that Jesus was talking about the Resurrection. Therefore, we have a greater responsibility than the people who heard his words that day in Jerusalem. We have the responsibility to remind ourselves and others that our church buildings are first and foremost places for offering worship to God. They are not to become marketplaces.

Let the buyer beware and let the sellers be aware. God is watching us.