

MARCH 8, 2015



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



EXODUS 20:1-17 OR 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-25

PSALM 19:8, 9, 10, 11

JOHN 2:13-25

REFLECTION

What's your reaction when you see something really unfair or wrong going on? Do you speak up? Do you seethe quietly? Do you flip tables? Here we see a rare example of Jesus completely losing his cool. Some Scripture scholars say that Jesus's anger wasn't just about business being transacted in what should be a holy place, but was spurred by the injustice of poor travelers being taken advantage of. Roman coins were changed for the kind that could be used for temple offerings, and animals for religious sacrifice were sold at unfair prices. In the other Gospel accounts—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—this story comes near the end just before Jesus is arrested and crucified. John's account of the Gospel places the story at the beginning of Jesus's ministry. Throughout John's account—the last to be written—we see a reflection of the growing conflict between the Jewish community and the early Christians. Today's readings also remind us of God's wisdom and to follow the teachings we have been given from the time of Moses to now.



ACTION

The Ten Commandments are one kind of teaching that comes from the Scriptures. Another kind of Church teaching that flows from both the Scriptures and our traditions is called Catholic social teaching. This focuses around seven themes:

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community, and participation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Preferential option for the poor and vulnerable
- Dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Solidarity with those of the world
- Care for God's creation

On our behalf, Catholic Relief Services assists the poor and vulnerable overseas by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. Read more about Catholic social teaching and Catholic Relief Services.
crs.org/about/guiding-principles.cfm

*Source: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Rank these according to what makes you maddest—a kid being bullied, someone mistreating an animal, a teacher embarrassing a student, big business polluting the environment. Explain why your top pick bothers you the most.
- Name three ways to handle anger that are positive and three that are negative.