

House Cleaning Time

House cleaning is often thought of as something that is done in the spring time of the year. It is meant to get rid of all the unwanted and undesirable items that have been amassed during the winter months.

The Gospel lesson for this coming Sunday (third Sunday in Lent) is John 2:13-22. Jews from all over the world would attend the Feast of Passover. Those coming from well outside Jerusalem needed help with currency exchange and sacrificial animals that could not be brought from a foreign land. What Jesus finds is the miss-using of necessary services for those Jews who came from afar.

In some cases, though, the money changers would discard worthy animals brought by worshipers and require the purchase of a temple animal. The cost was often exorbitant. Hence the Gentiles only place to worship had become a warehouse.

With holy zeal, Jesus cleanses the temple, which has been turned into a marketplace and He predicts His resurrection to those questioning His authority. He, too, calls us to repentance.

In a spiritual sense, the Lenten season is a good time to do some spiritual house cleaning. It is a time to recognize our ongoing sins and how they cloud our appreciation of what Christ went through to save us. God's Law does exactly that. It shows us our sins and leads us to the good news of Jesus' soul saving work.

Use this Lenten time to help you focus on the great price Jesus paid for the sins of the world. Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection reveal God's heart, which is zealous for those He loves.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for cleaning my heart and soul with the healing of the balm of your saving message. Thank you for this season of reflection to better understand the tremendous price you were willing to pay for my eternal salvation. Help me to each day grow stronger in my faith life. Amen