



*Small Group Newsletter*  
*St. Mary of the Visitation Parish*  
*Cambridge, (H) ONT.*



**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**MARCH 4, 2018**

**Introduction to the Word:**

We get offended, put off and angry by so many things - traffic, being late, relationships, not meeting our goals. So often its over little things and sometimes over everything! Of course this slows us down and wears us out. Often all we need to do is "get over it", but the how can be a stumbling block. In our new series for the season of Lent we will ask ourselves what are the stumbling blocks to getting over stuff.

**Warm-up Activity:** (5-10 minutes)

Talk about your Lenten Journey so far as a group? Of the three Gospels so far, which one has stood out for you and why?

**Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:**

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts, and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities. This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

**GOSPEL:** (John 2:13-25)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the moneychangers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**[Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as a Small Group](#)**



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**Reflection:**

Reactions are a part of our life, we have thousand of them each day. To what we or others wear, watch on TV or even have for dinner. Most are pretty basic and allow us to make our way through an average day, but some are most significant & impact our life, values and livelihood (not to mention happiness). Our readings, as we continue this Lenten journey lead us toward a reflection upon Reactions, Decisions and Choices - how we make them, what shapes them and who influences them.

Our gospel invites us to reflect on the reaction of Jesus as He entered the temple and cleared it. It invites us to see His reaction for who He is for us. On the First Sunday of Lent, when Jesus was tempted in the desert, He revealed His humanity – in His hunger – and His divinity in His rejection of the temptations of the evil one. On the Second Sunday of Lent, in the transfiguration on Mount Tabor, we heard Jesus referred to as God’s “beloved Son”, and we were asked to “Listen to him”. Now, on this Third Sunday of our Lenten season, we are challenged by the gospel to see a different side of Jesus, but as a man inspired by God to cleanse the Temple. He prophesies His resurrection from the dead and He says that He will “destroy this temple and in three days ... raise it up” speak of His rootedness in the plan of God for Him. Although the disciples did not understand Him, He was talking about His death (“this temple” referring to His body), and His resurrection three days later. Only later, after the resurrection, did they put the pieces of the puzzle together and understand His true meaning. They too had a reaction to what He was doing. Sometimes God does puzzling things in our life, are we willing to try and understand His meaning “three days later?”

[Please see supplementary materials using the Book “Perfectly Yourself” by Matthew Kelly](#)

**Questions for Discussion:** (15-20 minutes)

- Talk about a time that you were challenged to the point of being offended when someone corrected you regarding your faith (a message, a Small Group message, your Small Group)
- What are some ways that Jesus was offensive? Why do you think that Jesus and the cross are still offensive to some people?
- Name a time when someone reacted to something in your life – how did you deal with it? Be honest now and talk about a time you over reacted to something?

**Moving Forward in Prayer** (15-20 minutes)

*This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. It is also intended to provide moments to “outreach” to the community.*

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.
- How is your group preparing for Holy Week? How can your group prepare for the [Day of Mercy on March 22?](#)
- [Click here](#) and find out some ways your small group can have a blessed Season of Lent. Could helping our sister parish in Hamilton or our missions in Haiti or Kenya be possible?

Leader: Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray: **Hail Mary**