



## SUNDAY MATTERS

### Week # 3 – Third Sunday of Lent

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.

*He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area with the sheep and the oxen and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables and to those who sold doves, he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."  
John 2:15-16*



The Gospel images so far in Lent have made sense. A story of Jesus in the Desert, the story of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. But Jesus cleansing the temple seems like an unusual image for Lent – but is it?

Jesus comes to the Temple and sees merchants selling sheep and oxen for sacrifice at exorbitant prices, taking advantage of people. He also sees that they are buying and selling in the outer courtyard, interfering with Gentiles who are praying.

Jesus turns over the tables and yells at the merchants and money-changers to get out of his Father's house because they are making it a place of business rather than a place of worship. They are using God to make a profit while getting in the way of people worshipping. He offers some very strong and unequivocal feedback that this was unacceptable.

As we began Lent we look at the working definition that temptation is "*an invitation to embrace self-interest*" Jesus taught that the first things we need to get over is – ourselves! We need to fight the sense of entitlement which leads to becoming a service orientated person. Where we believe we have the right to it. Then we moved toward the mountain so that we could "take in the view." To be better able to see God's view of things – God's perspective.

This Lord's Day we are asked, with our Gospel, to consider our reactions. So often the choice and decisions that we make toward have an impact on us and others. We have all sorts of reactions all the time, some reasonable and some not so. Jesus reaction in the temple spoke of what He valued – the Father's House. It spoke of His core beliefs. Our question must always be if our reactions speak of what we value or if they speak of "*an invitation to embrace self-interest*" and a lack of the view.

*Where do you feel you have reacted well?*

*Where do you feel you have overacted to something?*

*Where is that the reaction of another has hurt or offended you? Have you gotten over it? Why or why not?*

*Is there a way we can improve our reactions?*

During our previous Message Series [“Defining Moments”](#) we journeyed together through Matthew Kelly’s book “Perfectly Yourself”. We continue our reflection of that for a few weeks during Lent – watch next week for the final chapter and part.

*Some things to consider as we Make Sunday Matter*

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.
- Take some time to consider how your Lenten journey is going? Are you growing? [Click here](#) and find out some ways to enhance your Lent. Could helping our sister parish in Hamilton or our missions in Haiti or Kenya be possible?
- How can you prepare for Holy Week?
- How can you prepare for the [Day of Mercy on March 22?](#)

[Make sure to check out the Video Follow Up Each Week on our website](#)

*See you Sunday!*