



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 21:12-17

Message for the Week: "Monday"

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What is the "best" worship experience you have been part of? Why?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 21:12-17](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

When Jesus entered the temple courts and saw all the buying and selling going on, why was Jesus so angry with what was happening in the temple?

When Jesus healed the lame and crippled and when the children started shouting praise to Jesus, why were the chief priests and the teachers of the law indignant?

What are some things that make us indignant? Why do these things make us so?

What thing(s) in our lives are preventing us from worshipping and glorifying God?

What have we done / are we doing to invite or prevent someone from encountering Jesus Christ?

What did the children see in the temple that the chief priests and teachers of the law didn't? What do we communicate to the next generation with our attitudes, body language, prioritization, and comments about worship?

Try It:

On Saturday night, spend some time preparing your heart for our worship gathering on Sunday morning. What do you need to do to be ready? Pay attention to what the Spirit of God is doing in you as you worship. What was different?

On Sunday night, spend some time preparing your heart for worship through the coming week. What do you need to do to be ready to worship and serve God in your daily routines? Pay attention to what the Spirit of God is doing in you as you worship throughout the week. What was different?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, as I walk this Lenten season, forgive me for being an obstacle to any encounter with you. Show me where I need to repent and show me how to be a living invitation to meet our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for March: Holy Curiosity for the Other

During the month of March, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Holy Curiosity for the Other](#). By engaging in this practice, we seek to create safe and inviting space in meaningful conversation with others. This involves us risking new and deeper relationships with the people we meet in the context of their lives, developing a holy curiosity that transcends your own needs for affirmation or expression and calls you into full attentiveness and discovery of another person's life and story. When we provide safe, inviting, and prayerful space for another to share, transformative encounters with God and one another occur over time.

Matthew 21:12-17

New International Version

21¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,'^[a] but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'^[b]"

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

¹⁶ "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,
"From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise'^[c]?"

¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

a. [Matthew 21:13](#) Isaiah 56:7

b. [Matthew 21:13](#) Jer. 7:11

c. [Matthew 21:16](#) Psalm 8:2 (see Septuagint)

The Message

21¹²⁻¹⁴ Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text:

My house was designated a house of prayer;
You have made it a hangout for thieves.

Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, "Hosanna to David's Son!" they were up in arms and took him to task. "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

Jesus said, "Yes, I hear them. And haven't you read in God's Word, 'From the mouths of children and babies I'll furnish a place of praise'?"

¹⁷ Fed up, Jesus spun around and left the city for Bethany, where he spent the night.