

A Reflection for Day 2 – Holy Monday

Matthew 21: 12-17

Jesus at the temple

¹² 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.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem he visited the Temple, the special, sacred place where people gathered to worship God. But when he got there he was angry when he saw so many people using God’s house as a market place and cheating people out of their money. Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers. This made the priests and religious leaders angry – who did Jesus think he was? They felt insulted by him and they felt threatened because the people loved Jesus. But, most importantly, they didn’t realize who he was. They didn’t understand. They plotted to kill Jesus and managed to bribe one of Jesus’ friends, Judas Iscariot, to give him up to them.

Unfortunately, it seems to be part of human nature to try to get rid of anything that threatens us. Is there anything that we feel threatened by?