

- Now this reading showcases an important distinction we must make: that of righteous anger and non-righteous anger.
- Now, all of us are more than familiar with non-righteous anger... that which we may often call selfish anger—when we don't get our way, or things don't go exactly the way WE want, or people don't act the way or do what WE think they ought.
- Contrast that with righteous anger, which Jesus demonstrated in His cleansing of the temple today—umbrage at injustice and or/mercilessness against God or a person.
- The irreverence which Jesus was angry at was due to injustice against the majesty and presence of God in the temple.

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- For a little background, this event occurs near the time of Passover, when Jews from all over Israel and the known world would come to the temple to offer sacrifice in worship of God.
  - Well, people couldn't necessarily drive their animals the whole way, and many did not even have flocks, so sellers of required sacrificial animals were necessary.
  - But...not in the temple, for many reasons. Just as a practical matter, the animals' inevitable mess. Imagine having to dodge cow patties coming into church, and how disrespectful that would be to make God's church a barn.
  - Then the noise interfering with prayers and worship. If you've ever been in a stock auction within a barn, you know how loud the animals can be.
  - But, perhaps most of all, the often extortionary rates that unscrupulous sellers could charge...perhaps with a required commission going to the temple authorities. That's likely one reason the authorities were ticked off.
  - As we well know, where there is money to be had, the unscrupulous will flock like moths to a flame.
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- As for the money changers, they changed foreign coin into the Hebrew coinage that was required at the temple. Again, for a commission, of course.
- And, in that way, again almost extorting people in their worship of God...all the more heinous when dealing with the poor—those for whom the sale of doves for sacrifice would have been targeted.
- Perhaps that's why Jesus addressed the dove sellers directly, because he targeted the poor who had no recourse.
- *“Buy from us, or fail to sacrifice to God as He requires. Your choice!”* might have been the message.

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- So much could be said, but Jesus' action, at least in part, comes down to giving due reverence to God—the Creator of all...the Father of all...and thus all reverence will inevitably fall short of what is actually owed, but we should do our best.
  - How much more so, then, when we have the very bodily presence of God in Jesus Christ in our very midst—in the tabernacle, upon the altar—that we give due reverence to God...by our silence respectful of those around us in prayer, and by appearance and demeanor, for these reflect our interior attitude.
  - This is simply respect, not so much to those around us, but to God Himself.
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  - And, yet, while physical reverence need be observed, remember that our interior is even much more so...for we are temples of the Holy Spirit...tabernacles of the Body and Blood of Christ.
  - Jesus says that He would raise the temple in three days—the temple of His Body—and St. Paul says that WE are the Body of Christ, w/ Jesus as our head. And thus our great responsibility to keep His temple—ourselves—purified of that which defiles it.
  - This is a reason the Church teaches that receiving the Eucharist in grave or mortal sin is itself gravely sinful, following St. Paul: *“Whoever... eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an*

*unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 11:27)*

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- Finally, just a note on our saint of Saturday, primarily because of her connection with New Mexico: St. Katherine Drexel.
- Born in 1858 into a prominent Philadelphia family, her parents imbued early within her a love of God and her fellow Man... especially of the poor.
- She took special interest in the material and spiritual well-being of black and Native Americans...first by donations, but soon realized that more “hands on” work was needed...
- ...and so she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to work with them to improve their lives.
- From the age of 33 until her death (just in 1955 at the age of 97) she dedicated her life and inherited fortune of several million dollars to this work...remembering Jesus’ admonition: *“Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.”*
- In 1894, Mother Drexel helped open the first mission school for Indians here in New Mexico—the St. Catherine Indian School (named after St. Catherine of Siena, not after herself), which operated until 1998—just down the road in Santa Fe.
- If you go to the back side of either the National Cemetery or Rosario Cemetery, you can still see it, though now dilapidated and fenced off. Some unresolved ownership dispute, I’ve heard.
- But it’s humbling to go there and know that a canonized saint used to walk that very ground...as well as perhaps having visited many places near us like Pojoaque, Nambé, San Idelfonso, Santa Clara... and almost certainly Española and Taos.
  
- She went on to found organizations primarily for Native Americans west of the Mississippi River, and for blacks in the southern United States...founding Xavier University in New Orleans in 1915

- An indication of the societal need for, and recognition of, her work, at her death her order had more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country...and she was canonized in 2000, the second canonized American-born saint.
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- St. Katherine was ahead of her time, recognizing the Eucharist as a great unifier of all peoples, regardless of race, nationality, etc.
- She grew up rich, but she knew that selfish wealth is lost in the end regardless and is therefore no more than dust and ashes...and she understood the wisdom of working not for this life, but rather for the next...by devotion to God and neighbor.

Reading 1

[Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17](#)

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

"I, the LORD, am your God,

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me.

You shall not carve **idols** for yourselves

in the shape of anything in the sky above

or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;

you shall not bow down before them or worship them.

For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God,

inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness

on the children of those who hate me,

down to the third and fourth generation;

but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation

on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.

For the LORD will not leave unpunished

the one who takes his name in vain.

**"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.**

Six days you may labor and do all your work,

but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God.

No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter,

or your male or female slave, or your beast,

or by the alien who lives with you.

In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth,

the sea and all that is in them;

but on the seventh day he rested.

That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother,

that you may have a long life in the land

which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,

nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass,

nor anything else that belongs to him."

**or**

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In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

"I, the LORD am your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.  
You shall not have other gods besides me.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.  
For the LORD will not leave unpunished  
the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.  
Honor your father and your mother,  
that you may have a long life in the land  
which the Lord, your God, is giving you.  
You shall not kill.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass,  
nor anything else that belongs to him."

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11](#)

R. (John 6:68c) **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

R. **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye.

R. **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just.

R. **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb.

R. **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

Reading II

[1 Cor 1:22-25](#)

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
but we proclaim Christ crucified,

a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Gospel

[Jn 2:13-25](#)

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,  
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,  
as well as the money changers seated there.

He made a whip out of cords

and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and 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."

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,

*Zeal for your house will consume me.*

At this the Jews answered and said to him,

"What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews said,

"This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,  
and you will raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,

his disciples remembered that he had said this,

and they came to believe the Scripture

and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,  
many began to believe in his name  
when they saw the signs he was doing.

But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,  
and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.

He himself understood it well.