

Celebrating Holy Week



Jesus Cleans Up the Temple, by Sandra Brese Rice

Many times at a market or garage sale, you can barter. *Barter* means you talk about the price of an item with the seller and you try to get the best deal.

When Jesus came to the temple, or place of worship in Jerusalem, He saw many people bartering and arguing over the selling of items. He became very angry and told them this kind of buying and selling should not be happening in God's house. God's house is for praying and studying God's Word. It is not a place to sell, buy, and sometimes cheat people out of their money. Jesus became angry when He saw the market in the temple.

Jesus entered the temple courtyard. He began to drive out all those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He said to them, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be called a house where people can pray.' But you are making it a den for robbers." -Matthew 21:12-13 NIV

Jesus had a right to be angry, and being angry is not a sin as long as we show our anger the right way. We should not hurt anyone. We should not say evil things. We should control our anger.

During *Holy Week*, we reflect upon Jesus' walk to the cross where He died to save us from our sins. Jesus taught us many things during this week through His words and actions. He taught us how important it is to focus on worship and God's Word when in church. Today, we focus on keeping God's house holy.

PRAYER:

Jesus, as we enter Holy Week and join You on Your walk to the cross, know we praise You and are grateful for the sacrifice You made for us. Help us remember to respect our places of worship and all the other gifts You have given us. Bless us this day with Your peace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

