



March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-25 - Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple

Reflection Questions:

1. Jesus was stirred to action by what he witnessed in the Temple that day. What do you think would evoke Jesus' anger in our life together right now? Where might Jesus find disrespect and injustice in our community? How would Jesus seek to repair what is intolerable and unjust?
2. At the end of the Gospel Reading Jesus is described as having a deep understanding of human nature. What seems to be our nature when it comes to noticing and reacting to differences between humans? What about human nature might thwart the building up of the Kingdom of God on Earth or the "Beloved Community" as described by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

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SCRUTINIES - YEAR A*

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42 - Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. (shorter form: John 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42)

Reflection Questions:

1. The Gospel Reading references a specific practice in Jesus' time: "For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans". The exchange between the Samaritan woman and Jesus is even more remarkable because of the social and cultural gulf that divided them. Describe some ways that current social and cultural norms separate you from people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds in your community.
2. It's not easy to challenge well-established codes of behavior, whether written into law or merely expected by your peers. Name a time in your life when you've noticed someone break with specific social or cultural norms, particularly surrounding race. Consider your own efforts to break norms as well. What was lost? What was gained? What can be learned?

** During the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, parishes often celebrate the scrutinies with the RCIA catechumens at one of their liturgies. The readings and gospel readings from those Masses are always from cycle A.*