

## MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH ANGER

Lenten Midweek Service

Dr. Fred Fourie ~ Wednesday, March 15, 2006



JOHN 2:13-17

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the moneychangers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

This Scripture reading describes an angry Jesus! Does it surprise you? Jesus did get angry at times! How do you deal with anger – especially when others around you are looking for trouble and are inviting your anger?

I like the story of the very tolerant-looking old man who was running to catch his bus. Just as he seemed to be gaining, the bus driver, with a purposeful smirk, pulled quickly away from the curb, splashing a shower of muddy water over the old man. Taking out his handkerchief, this kindly man softly murmured, "Well, may his soul find peace." Still more softly he added, "And the sooner the better."

One person can make a difference, even if they are quiet and unassuming. Sometimes, however, it takes a person who is angry. MADD, stands for "Mother's against drunk driving!" That is the story of how many communities are taking drunk drivers off of their streets. Somebody got angry. Being angered by what we see can lead to some creative and constructive solutions.

It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man (or a woman) stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he (or she) sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Pope John Paul II said, "I dream of a world where none will be so poor that they have nothing to give and none will be so rich that they have nothing to receive."

Dr. Martin Luther King said, "We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."

Jesus did get everyone's attention -- uncontrolled – no psychology at all - "Zeal for your house will consume me." It cost Jesus his life. God is not to be found in a building. God is to

be found in the fellowship of Christ's people. Thus, he laid the foundations for what true worship is and should be:

The prophets, the disciples of this generation, average, ordinary people like us, called to be the leaders, have always built God's Kingdom.

We are the leaders, prophets and disciples we have been waiting for.

Gods Kingdom is much more important than any human empire: God builds on the axis of good and the axis of justice, the axis of love and the axis of hope. God invades the heart, the mind and the soul to seek peace. God surprises us with words of forgiveness and reconciliation. God always avoids simplistic labeling of people. God uses faith and hope to empower. God blesses the peacemakers and calls them Gods children.

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

### FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

May God bless you with DISCOMFORT  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships.  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with ANGER  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people.  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with TEARS  
To shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
And to turn their pain into JOY

May God bless you with enough FOOLISHNESS  
to believe that you can make a difference in this world.

So that you can DO, what others claim cannot be done.  
Amen.