Devotion Two: Holy Monday

Matthew 21:12-22; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48;John 2:13-17

Psalm 51: 16-17

Jesus immediately goes to the Temple on Monday morning and is angered by those conducting business near the entrance. Jesus had cleared these businesses once before. (John Chap 2) and had made it very clear to them, and to the Jewish leaders, that the Temple was to be a house of prayer and not to be used as a business, yet here they were right back where they started in the same process of dishonoring God.

The place where they were set up was right in the main entrance, within the area set aside for the Gentiles. These Jewish leaders were dull in their recognition of what Jesus had said and self-absorbed in their positions. Rather than selling items for sacrifice and worship, they should have been meeting with the Gentiles to gather them in for pray and worship. Earlier that day, Jesus had cursed the fig tree for being all leafy and showy but having no fruit, and now He stood before men who likewise displayed themselves. These men were big on outward religiosity and small on genuine faith.

God doesn’t want our sacrifice or religious traditions as much as He wants our heart. Think about it, are you just going through the motions of traditions? or are you willingly and intentionally giving yourself to God?

