



# S<sup>+</sup>E P S FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS LENT 2021: PRACTICE

The Gospel this week depicts a moment in Jesus' ministry that tends to surprise many of us. He makes a whip out of cords and drives money changers with their sheep and oxen out of the temple. He flips tables and spills their coins out all over the floor.

Think about what a scene that must have made! The Apostles must have been shocked!

This image shakes the nice, gentle picture of Jesus that many of us tend to carry around in our heads. Not that Jesus isn't nice or gentle, but we see from the Gospel today that He is more than those things. The Jesus we see in the Gospel this week is the image of a passionate love that speaks hard truth when necessary and acts so as to purify and protect the temple, His Father's dwelling.

We are temples, our hearts are where the Father dwells. There are times our hearts are full of "money changers"; things that need to be removed or refined so that we can be closer to God. Jesus longs to do these things in us and does so through invitation, conviction, encouragement, and love. However...

Sometimes that love looks like flipping tables in our hearts. Maybe not with a whip, but possibly with a loving conviction that topples an idol we've allowed to become enthroned in our lives or uproots a habitual sin we've become all too comfortable with.

Having our tables flipped might sound destructive, but when we invite Jesus into our hearts and spend time with Him there, it's quite the opposite. He gently takes down our idols, brick by brick. With the hands of an attentive gardener, he pulls up the roots of our sin.

That is the passionate love of Jesus who seeks to purify and protect the temples of our hearts and bring us close to the Father.



The Sacraments are opportunities for us to go heart to heart with Jesus. During these moments of grace, we can work with Him to "flip our tables".

**Confessions:**  
Sundays, 10-10:45am  
Thursdays, 7-7:45pm

**Adoration:**  
Thursdays, 7-8pm  
In-person and livestream

**Mass:**  
Heart to Heart Series on Sundays at 9am and 6pm  
Masses in person and livestream

## Not Sympathy, But Surgery by Oswold Chambers

"If sympathy is all that human beings need, then the cross of Christ is an absurdity and there is absolutely no need for it. What the world needs is not "a little bit of love," but major surgery. If you think you are helping lost people with your sympathy and understanding, you are a traitor to Jesus Christ. You must have a right-standing relationship with him yourself, and pour your life out in helping others in his way - not in a human way that ignores God."



## WEEK THREE: *Cleaning Up*

For the next 5 Sundays of Lent at the 9am and 6pm Masses we will be focusing on a particular theme: Heart to Heart. This week, we spend time "Cleaning Up".

Keeping a house clean has always been challenging for me. Some people have the natural gift of staying on top of laundry, cleaning the bathrooms, and vacuuming. But alas, it just doesn't come naturally to me. I tend to keep the main room of the house clean, and the dirty dishes relatively under control. But there is one room that has the door closed all the time because of the mess that's behind it. I'm sure I'm not the only one with a room like this!

I find more and more that my interior reflects the exterior. There are parts of my heart that I let others see. They tend to be the places that are tidy and mostly clean; maybe a dust bunny here or there, but otherwise presentable. How similar this is to the parts of myself I let others see. I like to think that I'm an open person, being vulnerable with my flaws and wounds. But really, many of them stay hidden in that room where the door is always closed. That messy room we all have, where we throw things and say, "I'll deal with that later."

I avoid that place in my heart, because, like going into a disheveled room, it can be overwhelming. On the occasion though that I've gone there with Jesus, it's been different. He waits for me to open the door, looks around, smiles and says, "Oh, I can work with this." Then we go through it all together. It's amazing how it looks after and the peace I feel when we are done.

But even more importantly, is that I can actually focus on Jesus because the junk has been cleared and I am able to go heart to heart with Him in a deeper way.