

## Session 2 Study Guide - Risking Righteous Anger

In the Lenten Study book "Entering the Passion of Jesus", author A.J. Levine provides a general description of the layout of the temple. (Read pages 48-50). The 'Cleansing of the Temple' took place in the outermost open area called the Court of the Gentiles that was segregated from other areas. (See Temple Diagram c.30 AD)

The author states that the Court of the Gentiles served as both as a house of prayer and worship 'for all people' and the place where vendors conducted necessary business overseen by Temple authorities.

- Given these facts, what is Jesus' purpose in creating conflict by upsetting Temple policy?
- In Mark, why does Jesus accuse the money changers and vendors of creating a "den of robbers"?
- In John, Jesus states that the Temple is used as a "marketplace". How does that effect a house of prayer?
- Are there times when today's church tends to turn the house of prayer into a marketplace?

Pages 53-54 describe the conundrum facing the High Priest Caiaphas to maintain order during Passover.

- What would be the possible outcome if the High Priest did not take action against Jesus?
- Why didn't Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin (High Council) take action against Jesus and his followers?
- Are there times when one must compromise for 'the greater good'?
- Are there times when one cannot compromise? How does this justify the use of 'righteous anger'?

Reread John 2:17-22. Then read Mark 14:57-59 and Matthew 27:38-42

On pages 60-62, A.J. Levine explores the connection between The Temple and the Body of Christ. After the fact, the disciples understood what Jesus meant by rebuilding the temple 'in three days.'

- How does Holy Communion represent the Body of Christ for us?

A.J. Levine provides a new perspective on how we become the Temple/Body of Christ. (See page 62)

- What does it mean for the mission of the church today?