

X TRINITY 2017
SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER CRAIG LOONEY
1 COR. 12.1 ST. LUKE 19.41



On the Mount of Olives outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem stands a Franciscan church called *Dominus Flevit*...Latin for *the Lord Cried*...it was built in 1955 to look like a teardrop.

Behind the Altar a clear glass window gives an unobstructed view of the Old City and the Temple Mount...it's a view much like Jesus would have had 2000 years ago...and what he saw made him cry.

Jesus cries not for himself but for the city...*Jerusalem*...the *City of Peace*...and for the people...for dishonest and self-serving religious practices...for their failure to remain faithful to God...and for what he knows will happen to the city...

...“If you only knew today what is needed for peace...But now you cannot see it...not a single stone will they leave in its place, because you did not recognize the time God came to save you!”

Jesus cries for the people who would soon proclaim him King...then reject him and kill him less than a week later. It's the first Palm Sunday...Jesus is about to make his triumphant ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. His first stop...the Temple...God's house.

800 years before Jesus the Prophet Isaiah wrote...

...“These faithful foreigners will I bring to my Holy Mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

What Jesus found instead were greedy vendors selling animals for sacrifice at inflated prices and exchanging foreign currency at exorbitant rates...they were extorting their own people...even those who had little money to spare.

In a Godly display of righteous anger Jesus overturned all of the vendor's tables. He quotes Jeremiah...

...“Has this house, which bears my Name, become a hideout of robbers to you?”

Harsh words from Jesus, from the one whose commandment is for us to love God and love others just like we want to be love. Everything Jesus did was out of love...even giving the vendors and moneychangers a good dose of reality...“This does not please God”...he said!

If we take Saint Paul at his word in the Epistle...and we should...it's not hard for us to imagine Jesus having a good cry...when we don't use the gifts God has given us as we should...like “those Corinthians”...who failed to see the great treasure they possessed. Paul met the Corinthian challenge with some Saint Paul style tough love! Let's remember...Paul's letters are also directed at us...we need to listen to what he says!

We have all been given the gift of the Holy Spirit...he provides us with the wisdom to seek and do what is right and pleasing to God. Not all of us do the same kind of work...whether inside or outside the Church. We should not want more or less than the work God has in mind for us to accomplish. And we should never be jealous of another person's gifts.

With the gifts we have been given...we should always try to be faithful to God and do our part to spread his love. It was God's design the Temple in Jerusalem be a gathering place of peace and joy for people from all nations to pray. “All nations”...means everyone.

Our mission is clear...to make **THIS** House of Prayer a place where people will feel welcome and come to know God...where they can experience his peace and love...where together our faith grows...a place where...*the Lord Smiles!*

