A Reading from the Gospel of John 2:13–25:
Cleansing of the Temple

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple
of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the
dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture and the word
Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the
feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name
when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus
would not trust himself to them because he knew them
all, and did not need anyone to testify about human
nature. He himself understood it well.

**Background information**

The animals that were being sold in the Temple area
were the kinds of animals the Jewish people offered
as sacrifice in the Temple. At certain times of year,
the Jews were required to offer an animal sacrifice to
God, according to Jewish law. People from all over
the world came to the Temple to worship God and to
offer sacrifice. The people selling animals for sacrifice
could charge whatever they wanted for the animals.
Sometimes people could not afford an animal and
were unable to offer sacrifice. The sellers had turned
the act of worship into a business and made money
off of the people. The same was true of the money
changers. They would charge people a fee to change
foreign money into the form of money that was accepted in the Temple area.

Being angry is not a sin. Anger is an emotion and all emotions are neither morally good nor morally sinful. It is what we do with an emotion that gives it a moral quality, either good or sinful. Sometimes anger can cause us to act righteously when we encounter something that is unjust or evil.

1. What did Jesus find in the Temple when He went there for Passover?

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2. What did Jesus do in response to what He found in the Temple?

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3. What did Jesus tell these people as He did this?

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4. What sign did Jesus promise the people? What was He really talking about?

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5. Why do you think Jesus’ actions in this Gospel were not sinful?

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Clean My Room

Directions: Read about cleaning your room. Then answer the questions.

Sometimes we have to clean our rooms. Maybe our mom or dad asked us to. Maybe we wanted to. We have to put away our toys. We have to make our bed. We have to throw away the trash. Cleaning is important, even though it might not be fun. It makes us feel good to have a clean room. After we put away our toys and throw out the trash, there’s a lot more space. Cleaning from time to time makes it easier to play in our room.

Our Christian lives can be like our rooms. Sometimes we have to do a bit of cleaning up. Sometimes there are things that stand in the way of our friendship with God. These things need to be thrown away. Sometimes our feelings have been hurt by someone else. We need to forgive them. Sometimes we forget to pray. God wants us to pray and talk to Him every day. Lent is a time for us to clean up our faith life. This
week’s Gospel reminds us of this fact. We can begin to do this by giving up something for Lent, by helping others, and by praying every day.

1. What is one way you have helped others so far this Lent?

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2. What have you given up this Lent? Has it been easy or hard to do so? Why?

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3. Have you prayed every day this Lent? What can you do to remember to pray?

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Spot the Differences

Directions: Compare the two images of *Casting Out Money Changers* by Carl Bloch. See if you can spot 9 differences between the two images. Circle the differences when you find them.

First Image