

Yesterday, we began journeying with Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. The crowds gathered. The palms waved. The hosannas were shouted. And, then, the crowds went away. Jesus did not. This week in scripture we hear how Jesus lived out the last of his days on earth. Today, as we move toward the resurrection of our Lord, we are given this opportunity to imagine the sights, sounds, feels, tastes, and smells as Jesus walked this road to everlasting life for us. It was a hard walk, hard week; but in faith, Jesus kept moving forward for us. This week let's walk with him!

MONDAY: SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:15-19

Monday morning, Jesus and his followers returned to Jerusalem. When they entered the Temple, Jesus was angered to see that it had become a marketplace. The noise of the merchants hawking their wares made it impossible to worship God. Tables of money crashed to the floor and crates of doves were broken open as Jesus very deliberately threw the money changers out of the Temple. Then he very calmly spoke to the people, "The Temple is not a den of thieves. The Temple should be a place of prayer for all people. My house should be a place to pray." Kyrie Eleison ... Lord, have mercy upon us.

Truth be told, Jesus, there are lots of tables that need overturning in my life. Beneath the veneer of respectability, the tidy rows, and neat regulations hide dark addictions and angry judgments, hungry, greed, and heartless rejections. I know the pain—and so do those around us— of keeping up the façade. What a relief it would be to have it all upset, smashed, scattered, destroyed. So, perhaps, Jesus, today you could pay me a visit and help to radically rearrange the furniture of my life. Lord, speak to me; I am ready to listen. Amen.

May the love of God enfold us. The peace of Christ surround us. The presence and comfort of the Spirit be in and among us. Amen

Pastor Sherry