

# ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

March 7, 2021

## Virtual Reflection Outline Grade 10-11 ~ Session #11



### **Session Goals**

#### **Scripture Unpacked:**

- Articulate the meaning of a Scripture passage from the Sunday readings (or homily).
- Reflect on *and articulate* at least 1 way these lessons could apply to contemporary life.
- Reflect on our personal Lenten commitments to **Fast, Pray, and Give** aid to the Poor this Lent (*3 separate commitments*).

#### **Catholicism Unpacked**

March is the month when we will complete our year-long reflection on the Eucharist. Each youth will be asked to “think through”, articulate and share their own understanding of – and connection to - this “*central theological mystery of our faith*”.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- *Articulate ideas and/or present a rough draft of the individual’s “**Eucharist to me**” statement.*

## Scripture Unpacked (8-10 minutes)

*As Catholics, we believe that the Bible is the living Word of God. That alone should give us reason to pay attention, but there's more! Scripture is offers us lessons and wisdom that can be beneficial to OUR lives – right now!*

*The Temple in Jerusalem was (and 2,000 years later, still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated.*

- *Tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship.*
- *The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. But the reality was that this practice was impractical to nearly impossible for most pilgrims.*
- *The most "practical solution" was to purchase an animal for sacrifice at the Temple itself.*
- *The pious Temple traders would not accept Roman coins (they bore the "sacrilegious" image of the Roman Emperor). Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable local coinage – for an added fee, of course...*

*Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. Implying that the only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and God. © Greg Sunter (edited for OneWith)*

### Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

*Choose and discuss one or more of the following questions:*

- Many find Jesus' display of "anger" or "violence" confusing, disturbing, and/or out of character! What aspects of this gospel passage do you find confronting or challenging?
- What was Jesus' dream of the way people should be able to relate to God?
- What are the barriers that we place between our selves and true worship of God?

**Digging Deeper:** Are there Church practices today that you see as unjust or discriminatory?

**Homily:** *What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon's homily? How does that message tie back to the bible readings and/or your life?*

### Scripture Application Questions

*Disciples Do! The "Discipleship Challenge" asks our youth to take the practical lesson/wisdom that they have discerned from the Scripture readings (aka – the Bible) and/or the homily – and apply that in the context of their own lived experience.*

*Note: We are looking for something specific/concrete for them to commit to. "Being a better person" would be too generic... We also want to stay away from "praying" or "praying for someone" - We certainly want them to pray, but prayer is a separate practice of discipleship. If a youth is having problems coming up with something, start with their learned lesson/wisdom and work from there. The point here is to put faith into action by working up a tangible way for them to become agents of mercy, justice and love in their families, among their friends and in our world.*

### "Discipleship Challenge"

- What is one "practical lesson" or bit of wisdom that YOU can take away from the Bible readings and/or homily?
- How is your commitment to **Fast, Pray, and Give** going so far this Lent (*yep, that's 3 separate commitments from now till Easter*)?

## **Catholicism Unpacked** (15-20 minutes) **“What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Project**

*Here are my latest thoughts on this project... As I have said before, the bottom line is we want each youth to be able to “think through” and be able to articulate their own understanding of – and connection to – the Eucharist.*

*The process of thinking deeply and personally on this topic is critical for personal spiritual growth and for establishing a (personal) Catholic identity.*

*The ability to articulate these thoughts are a separate and equally invaluable developmental step for spiritual maturity.*

*Here is my new plan... During the month of March, I would like youth to finish “crafting” and record a video of their Eucharistic belief statement (20-30 seconds long). I would like a leader from each group to collect these videos, then share them with me (I will create a shared file on Google Drive/Drop Box, etc.) by Easter.*

*I will compile all of the individual videos from each group into a single video. These videos will be posted to our OneWith YouTube Channel (unlisted/unsearchable – available only to those who have the link... which I will share with the leaders). The goal would be to have the videos finished before our final session on April 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*I would also love to have the help of 2-3 youth to record an introduction for the project.*

*If you have any questions/would like to help me manage this project, let me know!  
Barry*

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## Session References /Resources

### Scripture:

#### Sunday Readings:

Reading #1: Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm: 19:8-11

Reading #2: I Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

A full copy of the readings for the week can be found on the U.S. Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/030721-YearB.cfm>

### Eucharist:

#### “What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Sample Videos

- Lovedahl Group - <https://youtu.be/d51USmGJ-gw>
- Mayer/Schindele Group - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcCC19Y4t6o&feature=youtu.be>
- Lape/Allen Group - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0\\_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be)

#### Links for total nerds

- Euchaayrist: Meal, Sacrifice, Presence (*Video: Bishop Robert Barron*) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFsFv-TWVfY>
- Breaking of the Bread (*a short article on the Fraction Rite*) - [https://rcspirituality.org/finding\\_the\\_plug/the-liturgy-of-the-eucharist-the-communion-rite-the-fraction-of-the-bread/](https://rcspirituality.org/finding_the_plug/the-liturgy-of-the-eucharist-the-communion-rite-the-fraction-of-the-bread/)
- Order of the Liturgy of the Eucharist (*US Bishops – breakdown of each segment of the rite*). <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist>

## Gospel Reflection – Session #11

In Jewish tradition, the Temple marked the point of physical connection between God and humankind and between the past and the present. It was where God's story and humanity's story met. However, in the year 70 C.E.—some 40 years after Jesus—the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. The gospel of John is written another 20+ years later and so the reality of the Temple's destruction is still trying to be absorbed by the people. It was a very powerful image for the gospel writer to suggest that Jesus was the new Temple—the new point of connection.

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself—thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep, and doves.

To further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage—so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple. Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

### Questions for Youth

- What aspects of this gospel passage do you find confronting or challenging?
- What was Jesus' dream of the way people should be able to relate to God?
- Have you ever seen something that you knew to be unjust? What did you do?
- How can you work against injustice in your local community?

### Questions for Parents/Sponsors

- What aspects of this gospel passage do you find confronting or challenging?
- What was Jesus' dream of the way people should be able to relate to God?
- What is so important about this story that it is included in all 4 Gospels?
- What does Jesus' extreme actions in the temple tell us about the importance of worship? Responding to injustice?

**Digging Deeper:** Are there Church practices today that may be seen as unjust or an impediment to worship?

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