

## **Lent Day 4**

Saturday February 17, 2018

### **Reading:** John 2:13-25

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

### **Reflection**

Yesterday we talked about God moving us from being good to being his own. This means there needs to be a renovation. The structures and the content of our lives and characters must be changed, even as the water was changed into wine. Today’s text reminds us that at times those changes can be difficult — even violent. God has a zeal to see us become holy and there are some areas in our lives which have just gone right off track. We can see it in others sometimes — have you ever experienced a deeply addicted person? The truth is, all sin is addictive, which means we are all addicts and which means we need an intervention. That is what the Spirit of Christ has been doing since before you moved through the waters of baptism to saving faith.

Of course, that congers up a question similar to the Jewish people, “How do I know you have the authority to do this?” And, Jesus’s answer to us is the same as to them, “Resurrection.” They ask for the sign and he tells them the sign will be his resurrection from the dead. The Jewish people believed that the resurrection of the dead would occur for Israel at the end of the age. She was God’s people, despite all the suffering she had been through, and the world would know that because at the end of the current age all who were Israel would be vindicated — resurrected to the new life. Jesus says, when you find me resurrected you will know I do have the authority I am currently claiming.

Paul says the same thing in Romans, “regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” A part of giving ourselves to Jesus as Lord and Saviour means allowing him to renovate us — sometimes zealously because we are so compromised. In those moments when we want to resist and protect ourselves, it is important to remember that he has every right because, as the one raised from the dead, he has the authority as God’s anointed one and our king and master.

### **Prayer**

O Holy One, these renovations of our persons can be hard and painful. We know that you do not delight in our pain but are committed to conform us to the image of your son our Lord. Help us to stay open to you and the work of your Spirit. Amen.