**Sunday 3rd Mar 2024: John 2:13-22: Zeal for your House will consume me**

*13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ 18 The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’*

*19 Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’*

*20 The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

**Notes**

Whilst we may be aware of the story of how Jesus drove money changers out of the temple, we may not always consider the implications of what the disciples felt as they watched him. They saw Jesus’s passion and determination, and quickly thought of the words David had used in Psalm 69 “Zeal for your house consumes me” (v9) and ascribed those words to Jesus.

We might be uncomfortable with the word “zeal”. Perhaps it suggests someone who is pernickety with rules that don’t really matter, or it may even suggest “zealot” or “terrorist” – something we would quite rightly shy away from.

But Paul in Romans 12 (v11) also tells us to “never be lacking in zeal” so whatever it was that David had, and Jesus has, we need to have too.

Jesus was deeply offended angry that the House of God wasn’t being used as it should be. And that’s what motivated him to take action. We too should be offended if our parish / benefice and also our Diocese is unable to meet all its mission and ministry objectives, and that should motivate us to action too, and consider if we can give or increase our giving to our local parish Church.

But some people are going through a crisis. It is difficult to think they could respond right now. Some may indeed need to cut down their giving which in turn means others need to step up and give more. How much each of us give must be a personal decision between us and God.

But it is worth the context of Psalm 69 (example vv 1-3). David was going through a crisis too. Maybe not a financial one, but a crisis none the less. But it was at this time of crisis, those words “zeal for your house consumes me” (v9) came tumbling out of him. Often, our crisis gives us the opportunity to make major life choices as to what we value most, and to let our other decisions flow from that. David’s priority was the House of God. What will ours be?

**End**