

Bulletin Information: Lent 2 – Year B

First Reading: John 2:13-22

Since it was almost the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep and pigeons, while moneychangers sat at their counters. Making a whip out of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple — even the cattle and sheep — and over-turned the tables of the moneychangers, scattering their coins. Then he faced the pigeon-sellers: “Take all this out of here! Stop turning God’s house into a market!” The disciples remembered the words of scripture, “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

The Temple authorities intervened and said, “What sign can you show us to justify what you’ve done?”

Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

They retorted, “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you’re going to raise it up in three days?” But the temple he was speaking of was his body. It was only after Jesus had been raised from the dead that the disciples remembered this statement and believed the scripture — and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Second Reading:

From Maggie Dawn in “Second Thoughts” in The Christian Century (March 11, 2008)

Encountering God in depth inevitably means that we have to unlearn a lot of ideas that are deeply ingrained in us, but which may be at odds with the truth. We draw our idea of God from a mixture of sources, often unconsciously; from childhood experiences, from media, from things we have heard or misheard in church, read or misread in the scriptures. This collection of ideas is the baggage we bring with us to faith, so that God becomes, in our experience, a mixture of truth and misconception. The God we expect to meet may not be the God we actually encounter....

Allowing our idea of God to change and grow is no easy task. There are times when I have held on for dear life to ideas I believed were central to my faith, only to grow slowly into the realization that I was mistaken. When I was taking my first degree in theology, most of the building blocks of my faith came up for serious reexamination. I asked one of my professors how it was possible for faith to survive this kind of intense intellectual scrutiny. He thought for a while, then said, “Once upon a time I believed in a great many things. Now I believe only in a few things, but I believe in them more deeply than I ever thought possible.”

Reflection: “(En)-Lightening Up by Disrupting the Distractions”

Rev Dr. Kharma Amos