



# Is Your Soul a Temple or Marketplace?

**PRAYER INTENTIONS, SIGN OF THE CROSS & OPENING PRAYER (Standing or kneeling\*)** *Glory to you, Lord. "Make my body healthy and agile, my mind sharp and clear, my heart joyful and contented, my soul faithful and loving."<sup>1</sup> Let my heart, therefore be holy, true to you O Lord my God, so that all may know I belong to You<sup>2</sup>. Have mercy on us, and be with us today as we contemplate our soul; a temple or a marketplace?*

**INTRODUCE TOPIC & SCRIPTURE (Matthew 21:12-13)** "Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all those engaged in selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And he said to them, 'It is written: 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves'."

**BREATH-WORK & GRATEFULNESS**

**BODILY PRAYER VERSE (from Psalm 19)** *Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.*

**MEDITATION** "In the Gospel, driven by zeal for His Father's house, Jesus turns over the tables of the money changers because they have disrespected the temple of His Father, the temple of the Living God. The heart, our hearts, are to be the temple of the same Living God. We make that temple a suitable and honorable place for God to dwell by honoring God. How do we honor God? – By living up to the code he has set for us. The code of honor – the Commandments."<sup>3</sup>

The First Commandment says that the Lord alone is God and that there should be no other gods besides Him. As temples of the Holy Spirit, our souls should be a place where the one true God is honored and worshipped; a place where God is first. Think, then, that Christ has come not only to "cleanse the Temple of Jerusalem," but the temple of your own body, your own life. The Lord Jesus comes into your life expecting to find a place ordered to the worship of the one true God, but will He find "a marketplace?"<sup>4</sup>

**RESOLUTION** (Re-read Scripture.) "How much of my life is given over to materialism, commercialism, or the accumulation of things? What have I allowed to invade the sacred space of my soul?"<sup>5</sup> "Maybe it is time to turn over the tables of the money changers that have taken residence in our hearts and make them, once again, temples worthy of God's presence."<sup>6</sup> Come Holy Spirit...

**ENDING PRAYER (Kneeling\*)** *Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to be able to come together - to work on ourselves and strengthen ourselves, physically as well as spiritually. May all I do, glorify You. Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate: **pray for us**; St. Joseph: **pray for us**; St. of the day: **pray for us**. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

<sup>1</sup> St. Thomas Aquinas

<sup>2</sup> Based on 1Kings 8:61 and 43

<sup>3</sup> Fr. Ben O'Cinnsealaigh, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Cincinnati, OH, based on his column for the week of March 7, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Paraphrased from Bishop Robert Barron, *Cleansing of the Temple*, March 14, 2012, Catholic News Agency.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/column/cleansing-of-the-temple-2073>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Fr. Ben O'Cinnsealaigh, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Cincinnati, OH, based on his column for the week of March 7, 2021.

