

Lent III

Corinthians refers to the prophecy in Isaiah, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate". These words were written as a warning to the people of David's city, Jerusalem. This passage was in the middle of the woe to Ephraim and the woe to the Obstinate Nation, Israel.

The world through its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified.

Jesus was not railing against the merchants and money changers for plying their trades. They were, after all, providing the necessary supplies for sacrificing at the temple. Jews who came great distances needed a way to buy those sacrifices. Rather, their use of the outer court of the temple was at issue. The outer court of the temple was the one place the Gentiles could come to pray. Using this holy space as a marketplace was abhorrent to Jesus. As the Jews question Him about a sign for his actions, Jesus draws the analogy of the physical temple in Jerusalem and the temple of his own body.

Today's temple is the body of Christians. As that body, we are called to ignore the current wisdom of the world, and instead, live a crucified life in Jesus. More than ever we need to trust in God and give our lives to him. While our worship place is sacred ground, we need to always remember it is God's presence that makes it holy. It is God's presence in us that makes us holy. Let God take you in his arms and live your lives in His peace.

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