



**Emmanuel Newsletter**  
**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

The readings for Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the third Sunday in Lent, are among the most widely known passages in scripture. In Exodus we read the classical ten commandments, then in John's Gospel the familiar story of the money changers, or as some have disrespectfully re-named it: "the temple tantrum."

I would like to point out that the two passages relate to one another in two ways. First, we are presented with the stark reality of the Ten Commandments as received by Moses. Second, Jesus' reaction to the money changers needs to be seen in the context of Jewish Law as understood in the time of Jesus.

We know that Jewish Law or the 'Halacha' means "go" or "walk." The Halacha, then, is the "way" a Jew is directed to behave in every aspect of life. For example, bankers (or money changers) had to follow closely defined rules in accordance with biblical prohibitions - commandments.

During Jesus' time, the outer court of the Temple was the place used to exchange money, sometimes from larger denominations to smaller. It was also the place where the annual temple tax was to be paid. It was common for the bankers to charge a fee for the exchange of monies of from 4% to 8%. Charging interest was prohibited by Jewish laws and Jesus knew and understood this. Jesus' behavior must be viewed in light of this important context.

**I invite you to A DISCUSSION ON SATURDAY, MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**, (at 5:00 pm). I pray that we will gain some insights about the significance of Jesus' somewhat surprising behavior. For me, the oft shouted words in protests for racial equality come to mind, "No justice, No peace." Is this what Jesus meant by his behavior?

Let's talk.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano

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### PRAYER LIST

We ask that you keep in your prayers the following persons: Merilee; Paul; Mary; Beth; Jenny; Dianna; Joseph; Catherine and Brant D; Carla; Maureen; and Louise.

(Please email us the names of those who need special prayers---[info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org). Only first names and last name initials will be used.)

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**NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Saturday, March 6, 2021.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96806523596?pwd=eHB4eWd6eWxicVRqUUU4TIJUNEFNQTO9>

Meeting ID: 968 0652 3596

Passcode: 618334

**After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our website or YouTube site:**

[www.emmanuelwr.org](http://www.emmanuelwr.org)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB\\_XbZ8h9jldhA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA)

Have a comment? Email us at: [info@emmanuelwr.org](mailto:info@emmanuelwr.org)

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