

Sermon  
First Covenant Minn. March 25, 2018

<sup>41</sup> As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; <sup>46</sup> and he said, “It is written,

‘My house shall be a house of prayer’;  
but you have made it a den of robbers.’”

<sup>47</sup> Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; <sup>48</sup> but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

-- Start: Power as a prosecutor

- leaving, moving
- the first night
- Redemption: become a teacher

-- Jesus enters on a donkey or colt

- What kind of king is this?
- One with INFLUENCE, not POWER
- One without power; that is, the ability to force people to do things
  - influence lasts so much longer
  - because it requires the listener to participate, to complete it
    - the enthymeme [BOOK]
  - what has changed your mind?
    - Not an exertion of power

-- Faith, individual or church, is so much truer wielding influence than power

- What do we know about this teaching, of influence over power?
  - Humility (donkey)
  - Weeping (feels deeply)
  - Righteous anger
  - They wanted to kill him
  
- Humility
  - Johnny's intro to his paper/the barista
  - Meet people in the valley, not the mountaintop
  - Vulnerability
  - We most honor those with power when they restrain themselves from using it; Nelson Mandela and the truth and reconciliation commission
  
- Weeping (feel deeply)
  - The empathy of a teacher
  - The bond
  - Why we did not pick teachers for jury
  - Ruckman—sharing with my students
  
- Righteous anger
  - that scene! Turning the tables...
  - Dan Freed's flash of deep caring
  - prophesy is not different than teaching
  - the most important things have an edge
  
- They wanted to kill him
  - Influence threatens the powerful
  - The constant anger of the Pharisees
  - The myth that they will have a parade for you
  - That is not what Jesus promised!
  - Condemnation, not respect
    - BUT.... you will not be alone
  
- End
  - What teachers do: Challenge and transform
  - The opposite of Superheroes, who maintain the status quo
  
  - Teachers do the opposite, create change at deepest level
    - learn what is important, find your passion

-- And Jesus?

-- Didn't say "you are ok just as you are"

-- How people react: Spellbound, furious, sad, joy

-- Does Jesus do that to you?

-- Are you seeing the Jesus that is full of righteous anger, who weeps  
in sorrow, who

-- That's who is marching in, on a donkey, looking odd

-- We are the humbled, the powerless, the ones shivering in the  
shadow of power... and we change the world

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts, and let us seek  
something truer than power; show us grace and love and the  
gentle movement of changing minds.