

## John 2:13-16, Jesus Cleanses the Temple

### Fury

I cannot help but smile,  
I cannot suppress the glee,  
when I recall from catechism,  
(or was it Giotto's fresco in Padua?)  
the story from, take your pick,  
Mathew, Mark, Luke or John,  
when Jesus, during Passover,  
upon arriving at Herod's temple,  
in an astonishing flash of anger,  
fashioned a whip, scattered  
goats and doves (a temporary  
reprieve from sacrifice and slaughter –  
so untidy in any holy of holies)  
and threw out the money-changers,  
overturned their tables, silver, gold,  
the image of Augustus spilling on stone.  
Jesus suffered every face of frailty,  
but his impatience for hypocrisy,  
for bureaucracy, was vast, famous.  
Oddly reassuring, I relish his fury,  
but it wouldn't matter. Pharisees  
whispered, then Judas, Gethsemane.  
Indignant, next day, the avarice resumed.  
And forty years later, Titus came along  
and the temple was gone.

David Sapp, Berlin Heights, Ohio, 2016

*John 2:13-16, New Revised Standard Version*

*Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"