

## Holy Week Devotionals

By R. L. Tigh

### Tuesday “Teaching in the Temple”

Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8

“And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’” Matthew 21:23

By whose authority did Jesus teach? Did he have the proper papers? Did he get all the permits and were they signed off correctly? Who signed off on them anyway? Just before the children of Israel entered the Promised Land almost fourteen hundred years earlier, God promised Moses, “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”<sup>1</sup> Jesus was that prophet. “He is the image of the invisible God...For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus spoke with authority for he was sent by God and was God. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”<sup>3</sup> He was always with the Father. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...”<sup>4</sup> He was sent from the Father by his incarnation through the virgin Mary. Jesus was doing and saying “...only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the son does likewise.”<sup>5</sup> So it was by the highest authority possible that Jesus taught in the temple. It was by God the Father’s authority. Jesus taught all that the Father had given to him to teach, showing forth the Father, who He is, and the way of salvation through faith in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Jesus was that messenger of the covenant that would suddenly come to the temple and reveal the Father’s will to the people. The leaders of the people were false leaders. On an earlier occasion Jesus had said to these leaders “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there no truth in him.”<sup>6</sup> So the leaders rejected Jesus and in that rejection they rejected God the Father whom they claimed to serve.

#### Hymn

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted” by Thomas Kelly, Trinity Hymnal page #257

#### The Baptist Catechism

Question: “How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?”

Answer: “Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his word and spirit, the will of God for our salvation.”

#### Family Activity

“I Am” Poster: Read the following Scriptures to find Christ’s seven “I Am” teachings and then make a poster portraying them. John 6:51; 8:12; 10:9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 18:18; <sup>2</sup> Colossians 1:15, 2:9; <sup>3</sup> John 1:1; <sup>4</sup> John 1:14; <sup>5</sup> John 5:19; <sup>6</sup> John 8:42-45