

Monday Evening

- *READING*

Mark ch 11 v 15 to 19

*(but the context of Palm Sunday
means it is better read from v1)*

A riot.

But not a riot.

Why does the Temple cleansing not elicit a riot?

Where are the guards to protect the businesses,

why is no one arresting Jesus here when there is an obvious crime?

How far do disciples join in?

More importantly why is the mob not joining in?

Why are other tables not turned and

how come Jesus is allowed back to teach and preach and heal in the Temple area in coming days?

So maybe we need to play down the excitement and drama a little?

Maybe we need to see the Gospel writer as a story teller whose scenes depict an idea as much as a reality.

The idea that Jesus is bringing a new way of "doing God"
instead of the sacrifice system which has gone way off its intended course?

There is no doubt we have been forced out of our normal pattern of worship this year and so questions arise of what we will do when its all over?

Will we continue to be a virtual church looking in on screens or will we have to find new ways of gathering together?

The Temple, as the focus of where God is, has been usurped by Jesus who will in Himself become the new Temple, the head of his body the church, the new way of being able to be close to God

Where and how do we / will we find ourselves sure of our closeness to God and to worship that is acceptable to Him in days ahead?

A prayer

Holy God

ever to be worshipped

always inviting us into a closer relationship with you

Bless us to sift the things

that have become tradition and empty ritual

and enable us to find that which truly allows us to worship

and glorify You.

In Jesus name we pray, amen