

REFLECTION

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“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” (John 2:16)



Jesus flipped the table and chased the money changers out of the temple. It was because of these signs that people came to believe. Not because of the comments he made on a social media account. Not because of the arguments he won. The way Jesus led his life led to the transformation of hearts.

While serving overseas in Cambodia and stateside in El Paso, Texas, I met many individuals who had faced life-threatening challenges time and time again to make a better life for themselves and their families. They spoke up against structures and systems that were largely just accepted as the status quo, but still contributed to their suffering. They demonstrated a resiliency that was beyond anything I had previously seen growing up in a safe and privileged environment. For me, when I read Gospel stories like the one today, I see their faces superimposed over Christ's.

Especially in this increasingly challenging moment in history, I think about this example of how Jesus engaged suffering, stood up to injustice, and brought about transformation. May we all strive to use our God-given creativity to flip the status quo and help others come to believe in a more just and compassionate world.

FOCUS: SOCIAL JUSTICE

As Christians, we are called to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. For most of us, the first is easy. Being the comforter keeps us in a position of power, a position of comfort ourselves. How much harder is it for us to embrace the second part of this social justice call and afflict the comfortable? To afflict means to trouble or affect. It is our moment to “make good trouble” as the great John Lewis said. If we stand for social justice, we must also be ready to affect and engage the status quo.

PRAYER

Loving God, help me to see today where I need to stand up against the status quo. Holy Spirit, help me to find the words to express where change needs to happen in our world. Give me faith to believe that transformation of our broken world is possible. Give me hope to believe that our society can undergo a conversion to equity, love, and respect for all—including our beloved earth. Give me the patience to hone hope every day—even when it is hard, and I am ridiculed for being naive. Help others to believe in hope and the future that can be, not only because of what I say, but also because of how I live my life.

SERVICE SUGGESTION

Take some time this week to reflect on injustices in the world that you would like to see change. We read about how Jesus saw injustice and did not just speak, but also did something about it. We read about how others came to believe because of his signs and actions. This week, take action on a specific injustice that disturbs or troubles you. Together, our individual small actions will transform our world. May others come to believe because of what they have seen.