

JANUARY 15

“BEFORE HE MADE A WHIP, HE WEPT.”

READ

Luke 19:41-45, John 2:15

We see the Lord going into the temple, kicking over tables, strewing money, loosing sacrificial animals, and “whacking” evil men. And we like that. We feel that’s what needs to be done. Why, if more Christians were that zealous, God’s house would be clean! But before the Lord ever constructed a whip, He wept for those who were lost. There was no anger before there was a tear. A broken heart preceded angry zeal. Neither I, nor you, are qualified to whip anybody until we have lain on our faces and wept — over their condition, over their sins. We get angry at sinners, but we forget they’re doing the only thing they know to do. We’re getting mad at people for things they can’t help. When I get so caught up with being “holy” and doing the “right” thing, I forget that there are others who don’t know what I know. When I begin to look with disdain upon them, I move out of the love of God. I have forgotten that Jesus died not just to save me and mine, but He died for the sins of the whole world. There are people we know who are going to lose everything if they don’t get right with God. I’ve got to get where they are and say, “There is a better way!”

PRAY

Lord, may I see as You see. May I weep as You wept. Baptize me with Your love for the lost.

From March 20, 2005