

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 11:12-33 (click to open link)

REFLECT:

Jesus was perfect. He was 100% God. Divine in every way. And yet, He experienced emotions, felt touch, understood humor. Jesus was also 100% human. He was God made flesh.

The human and divine are incredibly evident throughout these 22 verses. Jesus is hungry and the one fruit tree he encounters doesn't have any fruit on it. Despite the fact it's not supposed to have fruit on it, Jesus curses the tree.

Next, he walks into the temple, the place where people are supposed to be dedicated to worship of his father. Instead, they're selling doves and exchanging money, using it for personal profit. Jesus understandably makes his displeasure known, turning over tables, reprimanding those who are disrespecting his father and who have made the temple into something it was never meant to be.

Finally, he's approached with a challenging question. The approach is not out of respect or a desire to learn, but in an attempt to catch him in what they considered blasphemy. This time, Jesus respond with a retort. He fires a question right back at them. When they can't answer it, he refuses to answer them.

In each response, Jesus demonstrated his humanity. Fully human. With feelings. With emotions. Human experiences. Human responses. And yet, still, divine, blameless, without sin, full of power.

RESPOND:

In what way does Jesus' divinity appeal to you? And how does his humanity connect to you? In the midst of your frustrations, your hurts, the challenges you are faced with; how can you find comfort in Jesus' humanity? How can his humanity give you permission to allow yourself your own humanity?