

Esther and Emmett – March 7

Emmett: What to do ...what to do...what to do...(sigh)

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Hi Esther....(sigh) what to do, what to do, what to do...

Esther: This is just a guess...but it looks like you are trying to figure out what to do?

Emmett: (sigh) I've got a problem...and it's all Jesus' fault!

Esther: Jesus' fault! What did Jesus do?

Emmett: He made a big mess!

Esther: Really! What kind of mess?

Emmett: He went into the temple in Jerusalem and...do you know what he did?

Esther: Made a mess?

Emmett: Yeah. He turned tables upside down. And he took money – coins – and he threw them all over the floor. And for some reason there were a lot of cows and sheep in the temple and he chased all of them out... now that I think about it, it might have already been messy with all those sheep and cows in there!!

Esther: Soooo...what's your problem with all of this?

Emmett: My problem iswhat to do?

Esther: What...to...do...about what?

Emmett: What to do...well...what to do so that what I do will be like what Jesus did?

Esther: You want to do what Jesus did?

Emmett: Yeah...like when he says that we should love people I know that means wearing my mask when I am around people during this COVID time, and it means helping people when I can; and when Jesus feeds people I know it means I can share with others...but...but...

Esther: But in this story Jesus chases the sheep and cows out of the temple and...

Emmett: I don't even know where to find some sheep to chase? And cows are a lot bigger than I am so I don't think I want to try chasing any of them. And what if they decided to chase me...I've got pretty short legs for running you know... I guess I could throw some money on the floor. I could turn a table upside down, but why would I do that??

Esther: I don't think you have to do any of those things, Emmett.

Emmett: Really! That's great...but then why did Jesus do all that?

Esther: Well, when Jesus did that he was in the temple in Jerusalem...and the temple wasn't like one of our church buildings. The temple covered a huge area – the size of 20 modern day football stadiums.

Emmett: Wow! That's huge.

Esther: And that area was divided into a whole bunch of smaller areas – there were areas for just Jewish people and areas for just Gentiles, or non-Jewish people; there were places that only men were allowed, and other places for the women; there were places where the religious leaders could go but no one else could go...

Emmett: Wait a minute – that sounds like a lot of areas! So, some people weren't allowed to be with other people?

Esther: That's right. The area was divided up into different sections so that people could be divided up.

Emmett: But, didn't Jesus bring people together? Didn't he hang out with all sorts of people – men, women, children, people who fished and people who collected taxes and people who were hungry and people who were religious leaders and..

Esther: And...and...and...Yes, Jesus let everyone know that they were loved by God and that they should love one another.

Emmett: Good for Jesus!

Esther: So maybe Jesus was sad to see all the divisions between people in the temple, and maybe he couldn't break down all the walls keeping people apart, so he turned over a few tables as a way of saying that he'd like to knock down a few walls.

Emmett: So...is this another example of Jesus doing one thing that meant another thing?

Esther: Yes. He creates a mess to say that there already is a mess in the way people are being treated.

Emmett: So...I wonder...what to do...what to do...?

Esther: I think what we can do is treat everyone like they belong; to treat everyone like a person loved by God.

Emmett: I can do that! I can't break down too many walls, and I still don't know where to find any sheep, but I can care about people...like Jesus did!

Esther: Like Jesus did!! AMEN

Emmett: AMEN