

Jesus came to cleanse and to heal the needy

Matthew 21:1-17 & Psalm 118:25-29

Prayer: To have a request included in the *Pastoral Prayer*, phone the church office and leave a message any time before 9:00 AM on Sunday morning. *Or*, fill out a green ‘*Prayer Request*’ card on the back table as you come in and give to the preacher up-front before 10:25 AM.

Text for the week:

In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sacks of grain and loading *them* on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, and they brought *them* into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I admonished *them* on the day they sold food. Also men of Tyre were living there *who* imported fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold *them* to the sons of Judah on the Sabbath, even in Jerusalem. Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, ‘What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the Sabbath day? Did not your fathers do the same so that our God brought on us, and on this city, all this trouble? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.’ And it came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the Sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates *that* no load should enter on the Sabbath day. Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem. Then I warned them and said to them, ‘Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you’. From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come as gatekeepers to sanctify the Sabbath day. ¶ *For* this also remember me, O my God, and have compassion on me according to the greatness of Thy lovingkindness.

Nehemiah 13:15-22 (NAS)