

# Monday

KLIPPIES KRITZINGER

Site managers and workers in the homeless shelters of Tshwane, may you have a safe and productive Monday! You are caring for the weakest and the least of the citizens of Tshwane at this time of national lockdown. When most citizens have homes or flats or informal structures to which they can be confined, you are providing shelter and care for those who do not have a roof over their heads.

Yesterday, Stéphan shared some powerful thoughts from Luke 19 about the meaning of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Today I look at Matthew 21, which also refers to that dramatic prophetic incident that Jesus caused in the temple. His prophetic action had a double aim: firstly to shame and challenge people who were exploiting poor believers and secondly to welcome the unjustly excluded into the temple. The blind and the lame, who were usually barred from entering, came to Jesus in the temple and he healed them.

You are doing this same work of inclusion and healing, caring for those who are excluded by the system and ignored by most citizens. May the Spirit of God empower you for this work of caring inclusion. It is the will of God; it is the mission of Jesus.

When the religious leaders became angry and wanted to stop the children from singing in the temple: "Hosanna to the Son of David!", Jesus reminded them of the Scripture that God welcomes praise from the mouths of babies. He defended their right of children to be included and to make their voices heard.

You are creating safe and secure spaces for the most vulnerable in our city: babies, children, mothers and the elderly. May the Spirit of God empower you for this work of caring inclusion. It is the will of God; it is the mission of Jesus.

Prayer

Merciful God

Thank you for revealing your will to us in the life of Jesus of Nazareth

Thank you for his honesty and courage, his passion for justice

Thank you for his love of the poor and excluded

Thank you for his commitment to healing, justice and compassion.

Mighty God

Give us courage today – to do what is best for the people of our city

Give us patience today – to work with people who are difficult or stubborn

Give us open ears today – to hear people's pain and fear and uncertainty

Give us wisdom today – to negotiate with authorities and providers

Loving God

Do your work in us and through us today

That your name may be glorified

That your kingdom of justice, peace and joy may come

That your will may be done in Tshwane, as it is in heaven

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

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