Sermon:  **“What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?”** (John 2.18)

Disturbing passage

[1] Jesus is angry

We are more used to a gentle Jesus, meek and mild, one who absorbed injustice silently on the cross.

We associate anger with unpleasantness and wrongness.

We justify Jesus by saying it was righteous anger but this still leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

[2] We instinctively feel we are part of the problem.

When Jesus cries out against injustice, he is pointing the finger at us, even if only a small extent.

[3] So we find it hard to cry out for justice.

When a problem requires justice, the world will say: TEXT.

When said to Jesus they were not actually looking for a miracle, but some ‘proof’ that he had the right, and a belief that only a perfect person has such a right – remember the woman caught in adultery?

Then and now TEXT means “unless you are perfect, or at least untainted, you have no right to speak out”. Do we believe this is true? Do we need to be perfect, untainted first?

TV series Broken – mother with 3 children at wits end. No job, no money for 13 weeks, her mother dies…

Krispy Kreme – Hamilton man was refused entry for his girlfriend as she was a Filipino and not a Kiwi.

US woman groped on plane, when complained was told such assaults were common and return to seat.

Plogging – running/walking and picking up litter.

Do you hear the cries of injustice in these examples?

Injustice might be within us – we are not working as God intended

It might be in society – accepting what God disapproves

It might be in the church – when a parish goes stale or off the rails.

We have every right to speak out for justice, even though we might be part of the problem (as was true in the slave trade) but only if we are prepared to suffer personal loss as a result.

In each case Jesus’ cry of injustice leads to the cross – to suffering and loss for Jesus.

Are we prepared for suffering and loss ourselves, as we follow him, and carry our own crosses?