

## Holy Week: Jesus Living and Dying for Us - April 9, 2020

This is our Maundy Thursday service, and tonight I want to give you an overview of what took place during what is called Holy Week. And there's no doubt that it was the hardest week of Jesus' life, the most emotional, the busiest, the most physically demanding, the most painful, the most important week of His life.

Now Jesus knew ahead of time what was going to happen that week, and much of what would happen related to the fulfillment of prophecy, notably from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. - And there is no doubt that He, His Father and the Holy Spirit had talked about what would happen this week, for it was the most critical week, the climax of His life on earth, that which would change all of history, would forever affect all people, and the entire earth. - And Jesus, on one hand, was looking forward to this week. Luke 9:51 – *“When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem.”* Jesus knew what He was going to do, and He knew He'd complete the work His Father gave Him to do. John 17:4 – *“I brought you glory by completing the work You gave me to do.”*

John 6:35-40, 14:28-31, 17:1-5. It's obvious that Jesus greatly and deeply loved His Father, and was obedient to Him, doing exactly what His Father wanted Him to do. And what Jesus did during this week shows His great love, not just for God, but also for us. - Now what Jesus was going through this long week was a mental, physical and emotional battle, but more-so, a spiritual battle, the biggest spiritual battle that had ever taken place or will ever take place. And during this week, Jesus kept loving His Father, kept being led by the Holy Spirit, and kept doing all that He was supposed to do.

Well, let me now give you an overview of this week, from Saturday to Friday.

- **We start with Saturday**, and it was on that day that Jesus visited Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the one whom Jesus had raised from the dead. And they were all good friends, and I'm sure Jesus, knowing what was going to happen that coming week, really enjoyed the companionship and the fellowship and the comfort of being with these believers. - It was during that time that Mary anointed Jesus with this very costly perfume, and this was Mary's way to worship Jesus and show her love to Him. John 12:1-3

**Then we come to Sunday.** And it was on that Sunday that a large crowd of Jews came to see Lazarus and Jesus (Jn. 12:9). Now this is the start of Passover week, and some have estimated that there were close to 2 million Jewish people from all over the world in Jerusalem and the towns nearby, all there to celebrate the Passover.

**Then we come to Monday.** Matt. 21:1-11. This speaks of what is called Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The Jews had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem and great numbers of them lined the road – they were excited for they were thinking Jesus was the King, the King who would defeat the Romans.  
- And that Jesus would come riding into Jerusalem had been prophesied in Zech. 9:9, and they knew that, and were shouting "*Hosanna*", which means save us, but they weren't wanting spiritual salvation from their sins but physical salvation from the Romans.

John 12:27-32. You can tell the spiritual and the emotional state of Jesus at this time. He was troubled because He knew He would be painfully dying on a cross, but He was also purposeful, for He knew what He was going to accomplish, that people would be saved, the devil would be defeated, and He would be glorified. Now it's in the evening.  
Mark 11:11 – "*Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the Temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the 12 since it was already late.*"

**Then we come to Tuesday.** Matt. 12:12-17. Now Jesus' knew people's greatest problem was not injustice, crime, wars, immorality or divorce, but that they had abandoned God, and weren't worshiping God, and these sins I just mentioned were results.  
- People should have been worshiping God in the temple, and be praying (Mark 11:17), but instead they were buying and selling. And so, Jesus cleanses out the temple, and by doing so, rebukes the religious leaders, the ones who were using God's name for financial gain, and who were profiting from all this buying and selling. Later that day, Jesus goes back to Bethany to spend the night, and we assume with Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

**Then we come to Wednesday,** which we will see was a super-busy day for Jesus.  
- Matt. 21:18-22. Jesus causes this fig tree to wither and die, and this was a picture of how the nation of Israel was not bearing fruit, and God was going to judge her, with the result that His purposes for her would be put on hold for a long time.  
- Now we come to eight different passages that talk about how Jesus was teaching, and teaching the people was the #1 thing Jesus did during His ministry years. Luke 21:37-38

Let me summarize the lessons for you:

- Matt. 21:23-24. The chief priests and elders hated the fact that Jesus had all this power and authority, and they wanted to know where He got it, but He didn't tell them, but we know that God His Father had given it to Him.  
- Matt. 21:28-32. This is the parable about two sons, one repentant and one not. And Jesus was instructing these same fake Jewish leaders that it's not a matter of what you say but what you do, for these proud leaders had the right answers, but they weren't truly repentant, they didn't act like believers - they were hypocrites.

Matt 21:33-46. This is about a landowner, who pictured God, and there were these vine-growers who beat up His servants, and eventually killed His Son who pictured Jesus. And these vine-growers pictured how Israel was not submissive to God with the result that His kingdom would be taken from Israel and given to the church. Verses 43-46

- Matt 22:1-14. This parable is about how these people, i.e., the Jews, were invited to the wedding feast of a King's son, but they didn't want to go, and this is to illustrate the Jews' rejection of God and Jesus, and it concludes by saying that they will be punished.

- Matt. 22:15-22. Here we read about the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus, and they were asking whether an unpopular tax should be paid to Caesar. And Jesus tells them to pay the tax, that is, to submit to the governing authorities, even evil ones, like the Romans.

Matt. 22:23-33. Here were Sadducees trying to trick Jesus with regard to the question of the resurrection, but they could not do it, for they didn't understand God's word and power.

- Matt 22:34-40. Here's a lawyer, a scribe, trying to trick Jesus about what was the greatest commandment. You see, these Pharisees had all these man-made laws they were to obey and Jesus just says the main thing was to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

- Matt 22:41-46. Jesus asks the Pharisees a question about His deity, and using Scripture, He makes it clear that He is the Christ, the Son of God - and the people are dumbfounded.

Matt. 23:1-33 (13-15,27,33). This is Jesus' strongest rebuke, a sobering condemnation of false teachers. Now you can tell that Jesus hates these fakes, and rightly so, for they are liars and lead people not to God, but to hell. Now this was Jesus' last public sermon.

- Matt. 23:37-39. Jesus is so sad that the Jewish people rejected Him, and that their house, their nation would be left desolate, but it was temporary, for God promised them salvation, and a kingdom, which would come about in the future, after the rapture of the church.

Matt 24-25. Now it is Wednesday evening, and Jesus is heading back to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples are getting the idea that Jesus will be leaving them, and they want to know when He's coming back to set up His kingdom.

- And Jesus gives them a long and detailed answer that covers two chapters, and it's about the end times, Christ's coming, the rapture of the church, about how we should live before He comes, and about God judgment of nations and people who reject Him.

Matt 26:1-5. Jesus tells the disciples that He will be handed over to His enemies.

At this same time, Jesus' enemies are plotting how to seize Jesus and kill Him.

- Matt. 26:14-16. These vss tell us how Judas is the man used by the devil to betray Jesus.

**Then we come to Thursday.**

- Matt 26:17-19 – Here we see that the disciples are preparing the Passover Meal.
- Matt. 26:20-25. Now Jesus and the disciples are celebrating the Passover meal, and it is then sadly revealed that Judas would betray Jesus.
- Matt 26:26-29. Here is the last Passover meal, but it is at that time that communion is instituted, that ceremony during which we commemorate the Lord's death for us.
- John 13-17. Here are 5 more chapters that describe what happened that Thursday night, and the first 4 chapters focus on Jesus instructing the disciples, and ch. 17 is Jesus praying to His Father. These are wonderful, most important chapters, which we will not look at tonight.
- Matt 26:36-46. This is about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, which had to be one of the hardest times of Jesus' life, for He was thinking and praying about the next day, and dying for our sins. In fact, in Luke 22 we read that He was sweating drops of blood.

**Then we come to Friday, early Friday, for it was probably shortly after midnight.**

- Matt. 26:47-56. Jesus is betrayed by Judas. And then His other disciples leave Him. Can you imagine how Jesus felt? This begins that long night, as He appears before Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod and the soldiers. And He's mocked, beaten, spit upon, scourged and condemned to die. And this is Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who went through all this because He loved us.

Matt. 27:33-50. Indeed, Jesus died for us, for us sinners, so that we could be forgiven of our sins, so we could be God's children, so we could have eternal life, so we could love God and live with God and Jesus and one another forever and ever.

- Rom. 5:8 – *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* 1 Peter 3:18, John 3:16

- Heb. 12:3 – *“Consider Him who endured such suffering by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* It really is good for us to think about what Jesus went through for us that week, for what He did that week was for you and me and for all believers in the world. And we should be most thankful, and praise Him and love Him all the more for what He did for us. Psalm 145:1-2