

Traveling Through Holy Week to Hope

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Sunday March 28 ~ Palm Sunday: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” **Matthew 21:9 NIV** (Matthew 21: 6-11) Read more in Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:36-37; John 12: 12-19.

Your response: Where did the people place their expectations and hope?

Monday March 29: We tend to move forward to Thursday, but scripture records Monday and Tuesday events. Jesus cursed a fig tree, cleared money changers from the temple and stayed in Bethany with his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Read about it in Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17. **“Every day He was teaching at the temple.” (Luke 19:47a NIV)**

Your response: Which of Jesus’ teachings surprise you most?

Tuesday, March 30: Jesus is busy talking about faith to his disciples on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 21:23–24:51, Mark 11:20–13:37, Luke 20:1–21:36, and John 12:20–38) and Judas Iscariot is busy negotiating with the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus. (Matthew 26:14-16). Jesus authority is questioned. **“Jesus replied, Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?” Mark 12:24 NIV**

Your response: How do you see Jesus’s reply about error as a warning, protection, and hope?

Wednesday, March 31: Scripture doesn’t disclose what Jesus did on Wednesday. Was He resting, anticipating Passover and days to come?

Your response: Take time today to ponder the significance of Jesus ministry, why He came, and what lies ahead.

Thursday April 1 ~ The Last Supper: a reminder of our brokenness and Jesus’ return. Sometimes Holy Thursday is called Maundy Thursday. It is an old English word for washing, so it reminds us how Jesus lowered himself literally and figuratively, to wash his disciple’s feet. Then Jesus and His disciples celebrated Passover, remembering when God, through Moses, delivered their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus proclaimed, **“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” (Mark 14: 24 NIV)** Read more in Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-30; John 13: 21-30.

Your response: How are humility and brokenness our positions as we follow Jesus’ example?

Agony in the Garden: The agony of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane has a purpose. “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.” Matthew 26:36-

46; Mark 14: 32:52-65; Luke 22: 39-46. John 17. (“Yet not as I will, but as you will.” **Matthew 26:39 NIV**)

Your response: As you read John 17, do you pause in awe as you realize Jesus prayed for you?

Peter’s Denial: Reflect on our frailty and Jesus’ extraordinary love: “And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.’ **And he (Peter) went out and wept bitterly.**” **Luke 22:62 NIV** Read: Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-65, John 18:25-27

Your response: Perhaps today is a prayer to be faithful.

Friday April 2 ~ Good Friday: Trial, Jesus’ crucifixion, and death for us. “When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, ‘**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**’” **Luke 23:34 NIV** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. Read: Matthew 27:27-44; Mark 15:16-32; Luke 23:26-43, John 18:28-19:42) “**It is finished.**” **John 20:30 NIV**

Your response: Offer a prayer of gratitude that it is finished. We do not have to earn our salvation.

The Burial So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. (Mark 15: 42-47) “**Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.**” **Mark 15:46-47**

Your response: Pause to consider the boldness and kindness of Joseph of Arimathea.

Saturday April 3 ~ Waiting in silence on Saturday will reveal an unprecedented solution and victory on Sunday. Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42. **Silent Saturday**

Your response: Silence Reflect on Jesus’ great cost and our great reward. Is there a particular passage or scripture that was especially meaningful to you? Did you gain any personal insights spurring you on to be a Christ follower?

It is finished, but not over; there is more to come. Matthew 27: 35-44; Mark 15: 25-41; John 19:18-27.

Sunday April 4 ~ Resurrection Day: The most significant week in history ends with the most significant day of celebration: the resurrected Christ and the empty tomb. Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-12; John 20: 1-9. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.**” **Matthew 28:6**

Your response: Praise, awe, and thanksgiving: He is not here. He has risen! The tomb is empty. He did it for you. Celebrate His gift of hope to us.

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