

Mount Calvary Baptist Church



2021 Holy Week Devotional

"Palm Sunday To Easter"

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Introduction

At the culmination of the season of Lent, we begin **Holy Week**, also known as **Passion Week**. The name "Passion" refers to the passion with which Jesus willingly went to the cross to pay for the sins of all His people. Our journey begins in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as a celebration of Jesus' triumphant arrival. Crowds welcomed him with palms and praises amid shouts of "Hosannah! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' (Mark 11:9). Unbeknownst to the crowd, this will be Jesus' last week on earth.

More than once, Jesus informed his disciples and others around him, "*My time has not yet come*" (John 2:4, John 7:6, 8), and he often foreshadowed his death: "*The Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). Jesus understood what awaited him as His earthly ministry was ending, yet he approached this final week and endured the cross. Jesus fulfilled his call, his purpose and mission to seek and save the lost, and ultimately, he became the atoning sacrifice for humanity, once and for all (1 Peter 3:18).

This week will bring us to the pinnacle of God's singular plan of redemption and simultaneously reveal His hypostatic union-the two natures (Divine and Human) in the person of Jesus. You are invited to walk along side with Jesus on his journey to the cross. Observe how Jesus makes the most of the time he has left. Witness the anxiety of the disciples as they see the stakes slowly rising throughout the week. Watch the religious leaders become increasingly agitated and restless with Jesus and His message. Be convinced that there was a very human price paid so that we might be set free from the weight and bondage of our sins.

My prayer is that ultimately, you will prepare your own heart for the resurrection. May your heart burn as you draw closer to Jesus this week. May you come to know Him in increasing abundance, and may you share with the saints of God the triumph and victory, as we proclaim this truth which is foundational to all that we believe: ***Christ is risen from the dead!***

Reverend Brenda Jenkins
MCBC Christian Education

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Day 1 – Palm Sunday

Introduction

Many times, Jesus had warned the disciples that this day would come (Mark 8:27-30). How many times have you said to yourself, if only I had known then what I know now? The saying "hindsight is always 20/20" certainly has relevance in our lives, as it did for the disciples when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem during his triumphal entry (Mark 11:1-11).

Reflections

This day, the feast of the Passover. riding on a donkey, Jesus enters Jerusalem and is greeted by ecstatic crowds waving palm branches and laying coats on the ground in celebratory honor. The adulation, applause, and political rallying! "Hosanna in the highest!" The crowd expectation is clear: Jesus, the Messiah has come to throw off the oppression of the Romans. At long last, the revolution has begun. They loved Jesus on this day. It appears everything is falling into place for a new earthly kingdom to emerge. Jerusalem is welcoming their king. The people are anticipating a Messiah who will rescue them politically and free them from societal oppression-to overthrow the Roman Empire and reestablish Israel's power in the world. But God is up to something so much bigger.

Jesus enters Jerusalem in a way different from what they expected. Not in chariots of gold or on a powerful horse but riding on a donkey so that He might fulfill the prophecy of the prophet Zechariah. In the primeval Biblical world, a leader rode on a horse to declare war, and on a donkey to signify peace. Jesus utterly defies their expectations and turns things upside down. He did not come with hostility. He came in humility and servitude-to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). He did not take life; he gave up his own life to save the world.

Scriptures

- Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:29-38; John 10:18
- John 12:12-19; Zechariah 9:9

Prayer

"Father, forgive me for my shortsightedness. Rekindle in me a sense of joy and gratitude for the fact that You have answered Your people in the atoning work of Christ. Thank You for Your faithfulness as You continue to answer the cry of the repentant, "Save us now" In the name of Jesus. Amen."

Resources

- *The Bible Speaks Today*: Matthew, E. Michael Green
- Holy Bible: New Living Translation (NLT) and New King James Version (NKJV)

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Day 2 – Holy Monday

Introduction

Holy Monday is the second day of **Holy Week**. The Gospels tells us of some of the events that occurred on that day. The most notable and recognizable are: The cursing of the fig tree, the questioning of Jesus authority, and the Cleansing of the Temple. We will reflect on the cursing of the fig tree.

Reflections

Mark 11: 12-14 When Jesus and His disciples were returning to Jerusalem, He noticed a fig tree that had produced leaves ahead of the season. Normally a fig tree bears fruit twice a year, in June and September. Even though this was around April the fig tree still should have had some unripened fruits. Most scholars say that since the tree bore leaves, Jesus expected to find figs, and yet it was fruitless. Jesus cursed the tree, and it withered the next day.

In the Old Testament God use figs on a tree to represent the people of Israel (Hosea 9:10, Jeremiah 24; Jeremiah 8:13, and Micah 4:4). Most scholars believe the cursing of the fig tree was symbolically directed against the Jews, who did not accept Jesus as king and like the fig tree, the people of Israel/Jewish people failed to produce the fruit of righteousness.

Scriptures

- Mark 11:12-14; Matthew 21:18-22; Luke 13; Hosea 9:10; Jeremiah 8:13
- Jeremiah 24; Micah 4:4

Prayer

"Most Holy and eternal Father, the only true and living God who has all power and authority we come before you asking that you help us to bear fruits that the world will see in us and that your name may be glorified. It's in your Son Jesus name we pray. Amen."

Resources

- Commentary: Matthew Henry Commentary, Theology of Work Bible Commentary
- Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV), New Living Translation (NLT), New International Version (NIV) and Ryrie Study Bible King James Version (KJV)

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Day 3 – Holy Tuesday

Introduction

Holy Tuesday brings us to day three of **Holy Week** as we find that Jesus and the disciples has entered Jerusalem again. As Jesus is walking through the Temple area, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to Him challenging His authority.

Reflections

The religious leaders were in a dilemma. Once again, they think they have trapped Jesus with a question that will show him to be either a blasphemer or a weird fanatic. They were interested in two questions: (1) by what authority are you doing all these things? and (2) who gave you the right? Instead of answering them, Jesus responds with his own question – he asked them a question about John’s baptism, a question about his authority. Was it from heaven or from men? Caught in the middle, without the courage or spiritual insight to concede to the obvious, they refused to acknowledge what they knew to be true. So, they replied, “we do not know.” Jesus in turn replied, “then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.” They knew they just were not about to tell Jesus, and thereby admit before the people that they had been openly persecuting the Messiah. A reflection that stands out is that those leaders were not about the truth, but about their positions and reputations. That still holds as truth for many Christians today. We must be so careful that we do not allow our positions of authority to drive us in believing that we are all knowing. Jesus was not only about the truth, but He is the truth. He told His disciples in John 14:6a, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

This Holy Tuesday would be the last time that Jesus taught publicly in the temple as a free man. His words on this day was his closing argument. As he left the temple that Tuesday afternoon, he knew it would happen soon.

Scriptures

- Mark 11:27-33; John 14:6a

Prayer

"Dear Heavenly Father, please continue to lead and guide us in the truth as we travel this earthly journey. Father we thank you for Holy week as we study your Son’s journey to the cross. Father we thank you for Jesus, how he never compromised himself or others. Father we thank you for His teaching, healing, preaching, and other gifts that we may share with Him by the authority of the Holy Trinity. Keep us day by day, continue to bathe us in your grace and mercy. In your son’s Jesus’ Holy name, I pray. Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: New Living Translation (NLT)

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Day 4 – Spy Wednesday

Introduction

Betrayal is something we've all experienced at some point in our lives. Simply put, betrayal is like taking a ride on an emotional roller coaster. With highs and lows, we go through moments of regret, shame, denial, anger, and pain. However, as Christians, we know forgiveness is a must. Though at times when we feel betrayed, that's the furthest thought on our minds. But in Mark 11:25, we're reminded that when we pray, we must forgive those who've sinned against us so that our Father in heaven will forgive us!

Reflections

During **Holy Week**, several events had to take place prior to Christ's death. One of these events was Jesus being betrayed by one of his disciples, his boys; Judas. Judas was deemed "a spy", for the way he was in Jesus's inner circle, but ended up being the very one who gave him up to the enemies. Jesus knew He was here on a mission from the Father, and as painful as it was, He knew He had to complete it. (Mark 14:36)

Judas plotted to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. When he and the priests had made this arrangement, Judas watched and waited for the right time to "rat Jesus out". After walking with and following Jesus for a few years, he allowed Satan to influence him, and turn against his friend. Judas showed that riches (30 pieces of silver) meant more to him than Jesus did. ***How much is Jesus worth to you??***

In our own lives, we sometimes get caught up and distracted when things are going good for our family and friends. Instead of supporting and celebrating them, we get jealous and try to tear them down. We allow Satan to come in and influence our heart and mind, like Judas did. Although we may look good on the outside, its what's in our hearts that really matters. The scriptures remind us that we should examine ourselves to be sure we are truly looking to follow Jesus. ***Who are you looking to follow today??***

Scriptures

- Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Matthew 26:47-50;
- Mark 14:43-46; Matthew 26:50

Prayer

"Heavenly Father, thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice for us. Even in our sin, you still loved us and died for us. Help us to learn and live by your principle of forgiveness. Cleanse us from anything not like you. Purify our hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Help us to let our lights shine, so that we can draw the lost closer to you. Continue to lead, guide, and direct our paths. In Jesus name, Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: Amplified Version (AMP)
- Bible App
- <https://www.crosswalk.com>

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Day 5 – Maundy Thursday

Introduction

Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the story of Jesus washing the disciples feet on the eve of Passover and the Last Supper with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of **Holy Week**, preceded by Holy/Spy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Reflections

The name "Maundy Thursday" is derived from Jesus "mandate" to love one another as he loves us. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist. Feet washing was part of the Holy Week Celebration and is a powerful testimony to us all who are called to serve. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples as he was teaching them to be servants. It is the ultimate act of "servant leadership" as Jesus instructs his followers to love and to serve.

The term "Last Supper" refers to the final meal Jesus ate with His disciples before His trial and death on the cross. In the words that accompany the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, Jesus makes it clear that his sacrifice and death is for our redemption. As he invited his disciples to partake in the Last Supper, he invites us also to a meal of faith shared among believers. By eating and drinking the Lord's Supper together, we are reminded that Jesus wants us to love each other and to forgive each other. This is the command represented in the word "Maundy." Through Jesus' charge to "do this in remembrance of me," the Last Supper became the inaugural Lord's Supper; also, known as Holy Communion.

Scriptures

- Matthew 26: 17-30; Mark 10:42-45; Mark 11:25; Luke 22:1-6
- John 13:4-5; 1 Corinthians 11:24-29; Ephesians 4:32

Prayer

"O Lord, our God, we give you all praise, glory, and honor. We thank you for your grace that through your Son Jesus Christ you established the last supper in which we take of the communion elements in remembrance of Jesus. Lead us Father according to Your will and help us to become a servant whose life is a worthy example to others. Teach us Father to be the humble and loving servant that is pleasing in your sight. Let us seek God's will above our own and carry our cross in spirit and truth. In Jesus name, Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: New Living Translation (NLT)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maundy_Thursday
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Supper

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Day 6 – Good Friday

Introduction

It is not uncommon to find innocent people being put to death based upon false witnesses and fabricated lies. We live in a society where innocent people die every day based on lies and coerced confessions by an unjust and unfair justice system. On a day called "Good Friday," a righteous, strong, kind, loving, gentle, innocent man laid His life on the line for unworthy people!

Reflections

During a festive celebration on Good Friday, an innocent man's trial begins in the courtyard of the high priest. The trial was facilitated by powerful, angry, jealous men who hated how he healed the sick, fed the hungry, and preached spell-bounding sermons that would convict hearts and transform the soul of innumerable humans. His accusers spewed out many false testimonies against him. When asked to defend himself against his accusers, the innocent man said not a *"mumbling word"* (Mark 14:60-61; 15:4-5). Brought before the Governor, this faultless, innocent man was found guilty and condemned to die on a cross by crucifixion. This innocent man is taken, flogged, spit on, mocked by the soldiers and forced to carry his cross to the place of a skull (Golgotha). Placed between two thieves, the innocent man cries out to his father, *"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me."* The innocent man utters one last cry *"It is finished"* and he died on the cross for the remissions of the sins of many.

This innocent man denied himself because he desired to complete the mission his father sent him to do. The Son of Man took on the world's sin, for anyone who would believe in him would no longer need to be afraid of the devil. The death of this innocent man echoes what the Apostle John writes in verse 3:16 of his gospel: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Scriptures

- Mark 14:53-15:15; Mark 15:16-39; Mark 15:40-47

Prayer

"Father, I pray that you would help us to understand and accomplish our mission on earth. Let us not be afraid of the devil; instead, be fearful of sinning against you. Give us the power to sinless! May our weeping for this innocent man led to a transformed life by believing in your innocent Son, Jesus Christ. Make every day a Good Friday of remembrance! Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV)
- *Voices From The Past*, Volume 2, Richard Rushing

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Day 7 – Holy Saturday

Introduction

Saturday before Jesus was resurrected was a day of silence. It was the Sabbath, but for those who followed Jesus this Sabbath would take on a whole different meaning. Disheveled, disoriented, disappointed, and depressed after the death of Jesus, the disciples didn't know which way to turn. We sometimes may find ourselves sandwiched in between a breakdown and a breakthrough. It's in those times, when things are silent, that we may try to catch our breath or regroup. Sometimes in the middle of things it appears that all is indeed silent, but God is still working when we don't hear Him. God is still working even when the earth sat still on what we may call "*Silent Saturday*".

Reflections

Saturday, when Jesus was in the tomb, was a day in between the struggle and the solution. Can you imagine how the disciples felt? They abandoned their careers, left their families and homes to follow Jesus, just to see Him arrested and separated from them. Then they saw Him tried, beaten, and ultimately crucified, and now laying in a tomb that was borrowed. This day of silence would be far from silent, but filled with deep sorrow, loud confusion, and heavy tears. A day of rest was filled with unrest and uncertainty. These depressed disciples were most likely gathered somewhere trying to regroup and figure out which way they would turn. Although Jesus had attempted to prepare them for this day, they were still disappointed and confused about His death.

Sometimes In the middle of our trials, we may feel like God has abandoned us to fend for ourselves, but that's never the case. God said that He will be with us even to the ends of the world. Sometimes when things seem silent, our faith is tested. We will all go through seasons of silence and have moments in our lives in which we can't hear or see our God's work. When we are in despair is when God does His best work. In seasons of silence, grace speaks louder, and we should trust the voice that breaks the silence.

Scriptures

- Matthew 27:58-60; 28:20; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:56; John 19:41

Prayer

"Dear Lord, we thank you for your eternal presence with us. During those times when things seems silence and we are in those moments of darkness where our faith is weak, let us gain comfort that you are indeed with us. Thank you for your promises that you will never leave us or forsake us. Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: King James Version (KJV)

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Easter/Resurrection Sunday

Introduction

When all hope seems to be gone, early on a Sunday morning, women went to the tomb and found that the stone closing the tomb's entrance had been rolled away. An angel told them that Jesus was alive! Today we celebrate His victory over sin and death. The very foundation of all Christian doctrine hinges on the truth of His resurrection from the dead. It is by His resurrection that has made his death available for our atonement, justification, and salvation. In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us of his absolute sovereignty over life and death.

Reflections

Jesus' resurrection authenticates His own claims that He would be raised on the third day (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). If Jesus Christ had not been resurrected, there would be a death penalty hanging over our heads for our sins. Our faith would be totally pointless. Apostle Paul puts it like this, *"And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost!"* Jesus' resurrection gives us power to live the Christian life. *"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you"* (Romans 8:11).

The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead gives us the hope that we desperately need. One day, we too will be resurrected in our glorified bodies. One day, we shall meet Him, one day he will wipe away all our tears! One day, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* Not even death can separate God's people from His love. Death has been defeated; it no longer has the final say. *"Death is swallowed up in victory, O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Scriptures

- Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15; Romans 6:9, 8:11,31-39; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 1:8

Prayer

"Father we thank you! You loved us so much that you sent your only Son to suffer and die, just for us. Then You mightily raised Jesus, from the dead that we too might have a right to eternal life. We are grateful that your love saved us from the penalty and power of sin. Allow us to live in the riches and fullness of all that Jesus' resurrection means-He is the resurrection and the life! In the name of the One Who was and Who is and Who is to come, Jesus. Amen."

Resources

- Holy Bible: King James Version (KJV) and New Living Version (NLV)
- www.blueletterbible.com
- www.christianitytoday
- *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*, Habermas, Gary R.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

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Introduction To Christian Discipleship

We Offer Christ to You

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. **Do you have the absolute assurance that if you died today, that you would go to heaven?** If your answer is no, then continue to read and we will show you how you can be assured.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6 KJV

The gift of Salvation is a free GIFT that is offered to everyone and you can receive it, is as simple as ABC. To receive Christ into your life, you must:

- Admit that you are a sinner.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

The result of sin is Spiritual death, which means eternal separation from God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Admitting that you have sinned and are separated from God is the first step of repentance (turning from sin and self and turning to God) and receiving God into your life.

- Believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that He died for your sins.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

Although we have done nothing to deserve God's love and salvation, God provided salvation for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

- Confess your sin to God and then confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life.

"...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10)

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to others and receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13)

Here is a prayer to receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

"Dear Lord God, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your Forgiveness. I believe You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins and in 3 days He rose from the dead. I believe that through your sacrifice and resurrection, I have the hope of eternal life. I trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do Your Will. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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Invitation To Christian Discipleship



If you are interested in accepting God's Gift of Salvation as a result of the finished work of Christ on Calvary's cross, or rededicating your life to Christ and/or

you are interested in becoming a member of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church family, please contact us by phone at (703) 768-7917 or by email at discipleship@mountcalvarybaptist.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRiST EPHESIANS 2:10

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