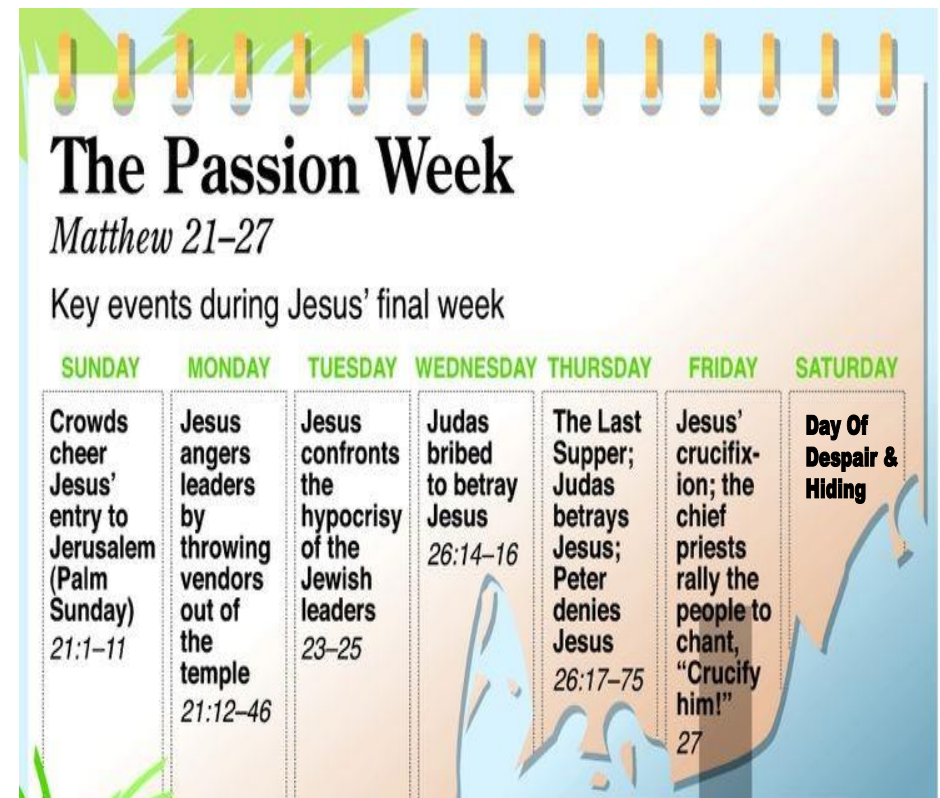


Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday Message

Today is known as Palm Sunday in the Christian Calendar. The actual celebration of Palm Sunday as part of Holy Week began around the 8th Century with believers processing through the town to the church where a special service was celebrated. People would throw palm branches down and shout “*Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*” And they would sing Hymns like “*All Glory, Laud and Honor*”. The original name of setting of this day actually goes back to ancient Hebrew/Jewish practice, where 4 days before Passover, the Lambs that were going to be sacrificed for Passover would be processed through the town where they were be evaluated to see if they were spotless and unblemished. It is easy to see how Jesus fulfilled this role as the Perfect Sacrificial Lamb and the prophecy from **Zechariah 9:9**...*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

One Possible Scenario of the Events of Jesus' Final Week



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Crowds cheer Jesus' entry to Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) 21:1-11	Jesus angers leaders by throwing vendors out of the temple 21:12-46	Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders 23-25	Judas bribed to betray Jesus 26:14-16	The Last Supper; Judas betrays Jesus; Peter denies Jesus 26:17-75	Jesus' crucifixion; the chief priests rally the people to chant, "Crucify him!" 27	Day Of Despair & Hiding

With that background, let's focus on the **Day of Destiny**, the Day that Jesus gave His life for us so that we could have salvation, forgiveness and eternal life. The common historical view is that it took place on a Friday. The Cross is the centerpiece for God's Good News Story. Without the Cross we would be without hope.

1 Corinthians 1:18...*For the Message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved.*

Let's briefly review what the **Message of the Cross** shows us.

A. The Cross is a Message About Obedience

Psalm 143:10... *Teach me to do Thy will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

John 4:34... *Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*

John 5:30... *'I do nothing on My own. I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

John 6:38... *For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.*

Matthew 6:9, 10... ⁹ *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.* ¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

B. The Cross Is a Message About Justice & Mercy.

Justice is something we typically want for others; mercy is something we typically want for ourselves. (Wiles)

Justice is a term that is used and misused often in our society. In terms of our subject today - Justice can be understood as God's plan to bring wholeness, goodness and impartiality to all things. God employs justice to bring all things into submission of His perfect will and plan. Justice requires that all people be treated equally and fairly in regard to their actions, restoring people who follow in righteousness and judging those who fail to live up to God's perfect will. In

essence justice requires that our actions are dealt with properly and in line with God's design.

Sadly, as the scriptures say, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*". **Romans 3:23**

Thus, justice demands that we all are paid what is due to us as sinners. God's righteousness and holiness demands that sin and wrong be dealt with and not neglected. So, in reality, everyone is guilty, and the justice verdict is **DEATH**. Justice says - **GUILTY**.

Thankfully, there is a mediating character of God that brings us hope. That is what we call **MERCY**.

"Mercy has to do with kindness and compassion; it is often spoken of in the context of God's not punishing us as our sins deserve. Mercy includes kindness and compassion but also carries the idea of bestowing a gift or favor. It may help to view mercy as a subset of grace. In Scripture, mercy is often equated with a deliverance from judgment (e.g., Deuteronomy 4:30–31; 1 Timothy 1:13), and grace is always the extending of a blessing to the unworthy". <https://www.gotquestions.org/mercy-grace.html>

John Stott writes:

"It is the Judge Himself who in holy love assumed the role of innocent victim, for in and through the person of His Son He Himself bore the penalty that He Himself inflicted. As Dale put it, 'The mysterious unity of the Father and the Son rendered it possible for God at once to endure and to inflict penal suffering.' There is neither harsh injustice nor unprincipled love nor Christological heresy in that; there is only unfathomable mercy. For in

*order to save us in such a way as to satisfy himself, God through Christ substituted Himself for us. Divine love triumphed over divine wrath by divine self-sacrifice. The cross was an act simultaneously of punishment and amnesty, severity and grace, **justice and mercy**. ” (The Cross of Christ, 158,159)*

The Cross is the perfect example of God’s Justice & Mercy! Thanks be to God and the Lord Jesus Christ for His Mercy!

C. The Cross Is a Message About the Power Of Love

John 3:16...*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son , that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.*

As I have said earlier, the Cross is the ultimate portrait and display of love. Love is the true motivation and power of the cross and our salvation.

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But the change in her was evident. As time went on, she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children. It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans. This is when the problems began. You see, about one half of the church did not think that a

woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So, they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand. The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife to be. He began to speak, and his statement was this: "My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?" The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble. What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! End of case!!!!

1 Corinthians 1:18...*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved.*

The message of the cross is that the Lord is willing to save anyone who asks. Once you ask Him to forgive your sins, He instantly begins to change your life. Live every day in the assurance that you are in God's loving hand, and that He will take care of you for all eternity.

The Cross of Christ is the greatest testimony of love. On the cross Jesus Christ shed His precious and perfect blood in an amazing act of Love.

1 Peter 1:18,19...¹⁸ *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,* ¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

The Power Of The Cross Is In The Blood Of Jesus

- 1. Redemption**
- 2. Forgiveness**
- 3. Justification**
- 4. Reconciliation**
- 5. Sanctification**
- 6. Access to God**
- 7. Daily Forgiveness**

A family was involved in a serious accident. Mike, the younger of two brothers involved, was badly injured and needed a blood transfusion. Mike's big brother, Danny, who was almost eight, was the perfect blood type. His father sat down with him and explained that his little brother was going to die but if Danny would give his little brother some blood that Mike would be just fine. Danny sat and thought for a minute and then said O.K. Dad I will do this for my brother. They took Danny into the operating room and hooked up the needle to his arm and the blood from his body began to flow to his little brother. Everything had gone wonderfully, and the nurse removed the needle from little Danny's arm. Danny with a tear in his eye looked at his father and said, "When do I

die?" The father suddenly realized with a shock that Danny had misunderstood his explanation of giving blood. Danny thought he was giving all of his blood to save the life of his little brother! He thought that he would die after the transfusion was over. Yet he still had agreed to help his little brother. (told by Greg Cooper)

What love, what sacrifice, what a gift of life, what blood. Have you experienced the wonder working power of the **Blood of the Lamb?**

***Jesus Paid It All, All To Him I Owe,
Sin Had Left a Crimson Stain,
He Washed It White As Snow.***

Invitation