

October 29, 2023

God's Good News Story

Journey to the Cross

The Last Weeks of Jesus' Earthly Story

In our year long series '*God's Good News Story*' we have traced the work of God to bring mankind into a right relationship with Him. It has been a story of God's **'Scarlet Thread of Redemption'** where He has persistently and graciously sought to 'seek and save the lost'.

The apex of the story is our focus today. We will take a look at the last weeks of Jesus' earthly life and ministry and how He provided the ultimate solution for our salvation and redemption. Our key focus will be on what is commonly known as **Passion Week or Holy Week**.

There are a few events during this time that the Bible gives us a reasonably solid assurance of when the events happened. Most of the events are less exact. The obvious reason that we don't have a strict chronology is that God did not see fit to give us that. However, we can piece together a general timeline story that helps us to relive and experience these events today.

Last week we left off with the events of John 11 with the death and resurrection of Jesus' dear friend Lazarus. Let's

pick up there and try to piece together the events that followed. One key reason that I start with this event is because it is a keystone event that helped motivate the Jewish religious leaders to come to the horrific decision to kill Jesus.

One month to 1 week before Passion Week...

Listen to John 11:45-57... 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him/ (Jesus). 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this Man performing many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." 49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." 51 He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take His life. 54 Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead, He withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where He stayed with His disciples. 55 When it was almost time

for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. 56 They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t He coming to the festival at all?” 57 But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest Him.

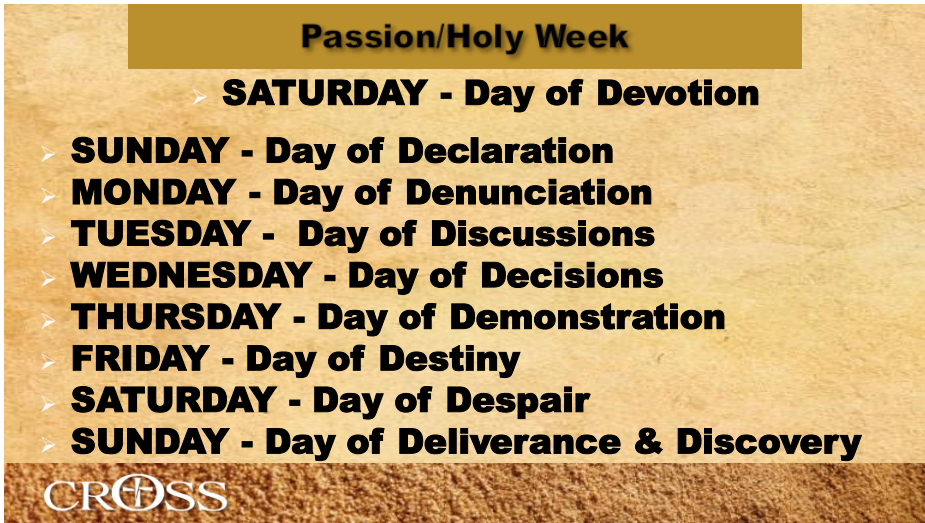
The week prior to Passion Week

Mark 10:32...³² *They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again He took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to Him.*³³ *“We are going up to Jerusalem,” He said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles,*³⁴ *who will mock Him and spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. Three days later He will rise.”*

It appears that Jesus may have come to *Jericho* (about 12 miles outside of Jerusalem) soon after His telling the Disciples again of His death and resurrection. While in Jericho he is approached by two blind men, one who is named Bartimaeus. Jesus heals them, then it seems that He runs into Zacchaeus after that.

THURSDAY or FRIDAY – 2 Days before start of Passion Week

It would seem likely that Jesus and His disciples traveled from Jericho to Bethany (2 miles outside Jerusalem) on one of these days. It would keep them from having to travel on a Sabbath. They would spend the next several night at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus there in Bethany.



Passion/Holy Week

- **SATURDAY - Day of Devotion**
- **SUNDAY - Day of Declaration**
- **MONDAY - Day of Denunciation**
- **TUESDAY - Day of Discussions**
- **WEDNESDAY - Day of Decisions**
- **THURSDAY - Day of Demonstration**
- **FRIDAY - Day of Destiny**
- **SATURDAY - Day of Despair**
- **SUNDAY - Day of Deliverance & Discovery**

CROSS

SATURDAY – 1 Day Before Passion Week - Day of Devotion –

While at the home of Simon we experience the beautiful, tender and extravagant act of prophetic devotion and worship where Mary anoints Jesus with an expensive ointment. She is chastised by some of the disciples but is praised and honored by Jesus.

SUNDAY - Day of Declaration –

This day, a Sunday, is the traditional start of what we call Passion Week or Holy Week. Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy from **Zechariah 9:9...** *“Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: Your king is coming to you, a just Savior is He, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey”*

All the people shouted “Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord”

As He enters the city Jesus weeps for Jerusalem as He knows her coming fate of destruction for their disbelief. He and the disciples go back to Bethany for the night.

MONDAY - Day of Denunciation –

This day we find Jesus bringing judgment and cursing upon by cursing a fig tree & cleansing the temple. They go back to Bethany for the night.

TUESDAY - Day of Discussions –

Discussions concerning Fig Tree; Sanhedrin questions Jesus; Series of teachings & parables (Great Commandment); Seven woes to religious leaders; Widow's offering; Jesus teaching on end times; additional parables;

WEDNESDAY - Day of Decisions –

Events uncertain. Greeks make decision to seek out Jesus; Sanhedrin make a decision to set a plot to arrest Jesus; (*Alternate time for where Mary anoints Jesus*); Judas continues arrangements to betray Jesus.

THURSDAY - Day of Demonstration –

Preparation for Passover Meal; Passover meal; Washes feet of Disciples; Identifies betrayer; Jesus institutes the Memorial Supper; Farewell teaching; Jesus' prayer for Disciples.

FRIDAY - Day of Destiny –

Early morning trials before Annas, former High Priest, then another trial before the current High Priest Caiaphas, then on to Roman Governor Pilate, then paraded in front of Herod, then back to Pilate where He was condemned, and Barabbas set free. Jesus was beaten, mocked and crowned with a crown of thorns.

A little before 9am Jesus bore the cross to Calvary and was nailed to the cross around 9am. Where He stayed for 6 hours until around 3pm.

Around Noon the sun was darkened.

During the 6 hours Jesus was on the cross He uttered 7 sayings...

1. *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* — Luke 23:34
2. *“Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”*
— Luke 23:43
3. *“Woman, behold thy Son.”* — John 19:26
4. *“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”*
— Mark 15:34
5. *“I thirst.”* — John 19:28
6. *“It is finished.”* — John 19:30
7. *“Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.”*
— Luke 23:46

Around 3:00pm there was still great darkness, an earthquake happened, and the veil of the temple was torn from the top down. As Jesus died a Roman Centurion confessed ‘ “***Surely He was God’s Son***”. The leaders ordered the legs to be broken of Jesus and the two thieves beside Him. The soldiers broke the legs of the thieves but when they came to Jesus, they saw He was already died and they pierced His side with a sword, just as the Old Testament prophesied. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and wrapped Him with spices in a white cloth and laid Him in a newly carved tomb. Some of the women who had been at the cross followed and saw where they laid Him. They all sadly went to their homes dejected.

SATURDAY - Day of Despair –

Jesus’s body lies in His tomb, His followers huddle in the homes in fear and despair.

SUNDAY - Day of Deliverance & Discovery –

Jesus is glorious resurrected from the grave and appears to His followers.

Jesus' Appearances Resurrection Sunday

- To Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb in Jerusalem (Mark 16:9; John 20:11–18).
- To other women at the empty tomb (Matt. 28:1–10).
- To two followers on their way to Emmaus (Mark 16:12–13; Luke 24:13–32).
- To Peter, apparently in Jerusalem (Luke 24:33–35).

- To ten of His disciples in Jerusalem, Thomas absent (Luke 24:36—43; John 20:19–25).
- To the eleven disciples in Jerusalem, Thomas present (John 20:26–29).
- To James and all the apostles (1 Cor. 15:7)

The purpose of this story chronology is to help you to recognize the reality of what Jesus did for you - HE PAID IT ALL, all to Him I Owe, Sin Had left a Crimson stain, He washed it white as snow!. We can be confident and assured that Jesus really lived, really died, and really resurrected to provide the power for the **Scarlet Thread of Redemption** for all who will believe.