

Remnant Life Church
April 13, 2014
Palm Sunday

“The Final, Most Important Week”

Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19-24; John 12-20

For many Christians who have gone to church their entire lives events and stories even words and phrases can be so very familiar and because of that their true meaning is often missed, assumed, or even completely misunderstood.

The last week of Jesus’ life is filled with incredible significance, teaching, examples of how we are to live and finally, the culmination and fulfillment of Jesus’ very purpose here on Earth.

But what might we be missing through the familiarity of these accounts?

- The events of Holy Week are recorded in the 4 gospels
 - The gospels are divided into 2 sections
 - Matt, Mark and Luke are the Synoptic gospels meaning “side by side”
 - We can take these 3 books and read them comparatively since Mark, the first book written sometime in the 50’s, was used by the other two (both written within 20 years) as a reference explaining their similarities but also their differences
 - John is written in a different manner with focus on the activities of Jesus’ ministry by passing the birth and early years narratives
 - The differences in these records are given to observation, date of writing, purpose of writing and inspiration.
- Holy Week begins with Jesus’ arrival in Bethany outside of Jerusalem 6 days before Passover (**John 12:1**)
 1. **Friday** - stays with Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus.
 - i. They are invited for dinner to the home of Simon the Leper (**Matt. 26:6**)
 - ii. Some scholars believe that Simon may have been the father of Jesus’ 3 friends
 - iii. Here Mary anoints Jesus with oil
 1. 2 of the Gospels present this as a sign of Jesus’ authority as she anoints His head (**Matt and Luke**)
 2. **John** presents it as the anointing of His feet to illustrate Mary’s humility
 - iv. The value of the oil and spice would have been about 300 denarii or about a year’s wages
 1. The disciples, led by Judas, spoke against the act
 2. Judas, the treasurer and a thief, was hiding his greed

- v. In spite of His many warnings to the disciples of His impending death only Mary seemed to grasp the true meaning of His words.

(Do we understand what it is that God through His word, through prayer, through the guidance of godly brothers and sisters is wanting us to understand about our lives?)

2. Saturday

- i. The Jewish Sabbath
- ii. Observing the traditional elements of the day and spending time with His friends

3. Sunday

- i. Jesus sends two of His disciples on ahead to get a colt that is tied up (prophesy of **Zec 9:9** nearly 500 years earlier) so He can ride into the city (**Mark 11:1-6**)
- ii. Jesus rode through the Golden or eastern gate
 1. Because of the gate's proximity to the temple this is also the gate that the lambs would have been brought for sacrifice
 2. Jesus entered the city as the Spotless Lamb of God – the final sacrifice
 3. That date would have been Nisan 10 – the same day every year that the pilgrims presented their lambs for inspection to the priests for Passover
- iii. The people cried Hosanna meaning “save us”
 1. Like the disciples the people also believed that Jesus was coming to set them free from the oppression of the Romans
 2. His appearance on the colt rather than the steed further demonstrated His nature of humility

4. Monday

- i. He entered the temple and confronted the money changers (**Matt 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17**)
- ii. He healed the blind and lame who came to Him (**Matt 21:14**)
- iii. He cursed the fig tree that withered (**Matt 21:19; Mark 11:14**)
 1. Jesus did this as a symbolic act of judgment against Israel because of their fruitlessness (**Matt 21:42-45**)
 2. The sin of Israel caused Jesus to weep (**Luke 19:41-44**)
 3. The nation did not understand who Jesus was or what their actions would bring but Jesus knew that in less than 40 years the temple would be leveled and burned by the Romans led by General Titus
 4. Not one stone on another (**Matt 24:2**) – a rumor of gold used instead of mortar to hold the bricks together had the soldiers separating every piece of marble

5. Tuesday

1. Jesus spends this day teaching through several parables regarding love and the sinfulness of spiritual pride (Matt 23:1-36; Mark 12:38-40)
2. He must deal face-to-face with the Pharisees and other spiritual leaders (Matt 22:15-20; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:41-44)
3. Some of Jesus most stern and forceful teaching takes place this day addressed to the leaders as He weeps for Jerusalem (Matt 23)

6. Wednesday

- i. A day of rest
- ii. Jesus took time to be with those He loved

7. Thursday

- i. Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare the room for the Passover meal (Luke 22:8)
- ii. Three primary events this day
 1. Jesus washes the disciple's feet (John 13:1-17)
 - a. Peter's refusal and then request to be washed all over gives us assurance of our salvation
 - b. Jesus uses two different words for wash in John 13:10
 - i. The first is the word *lou-oh* means to totally clean a dead body or blood from a wound
 - ii. The second is the word *nip-toe* meaning to clean one's hands or feet
 - c. Through repentance and our salvation we have been cleansed of the penalty of sin – death (Rom 6:23)
 - d. We will need to clean ourselves constantly of sin throughout our lives
 2. Jesus eats the Passover meal with His disciples (Matt 26; Mark 14; Luke 22)
 - a. This is today our communion service
 - b. Jesus changed the meaning and significance of the Passover meal
 - i. The Passover meal had always been to commemorate the Israelites freedom from the bondage of Egypt
 - ii. Jesus made it about our freedom from the bondage of sin
 - c. Judas is identified and leaves the room
 - i. A sinful heart cannot participate in this intimate time with the Savior
 - ii. Why did Jesus “honor” him with the dipping of the bread into the wine?
 - iii. Examine yourself... (I Cor 11:28-29)
 - d. The singing of the hymn - the Hallel

Psalms 113-118

3. Jesus leads them to the Garden of Gethsemane
(Matt 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 18)
 - a. Prays while the disciples sleep (3 times)
 - b. Judas leads a band of men to arrest Jesus
 - i. A band of soldiers
 - ii. One-tenth of a legion
 - iii. A legion was 6000 men; 600 soldiers came to arrest Jesus
 - iv. John 18:6 – Jesus answers “I am” and they all fall (to be thrown down)
 1. Jesus was not a victim about to be overwhelmed
 2. He was, at His own will, giving His life over
 - c. Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus he high priest’s servant
 - i. Peter still had belief that it was to be a physical revolution
 - ii. Jesus continued, in love, to teach them His way was not the way of men
 - iii. He had all power (could call 12 legions of angels – 72,000)
 - iv. 1 angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers – (2 Kings 19:35)
 - d. The disciples scattered and deserted Jesus

Jesus entered the city today to a crowd of enthusiastic supporters

He entered to a city of hostile opponents intent on killing Him

Which side are we on?

- That might seem like a foolish question to some
- Our lives made available to Him is the only way to embrace Jesus
- A heart of pride and selfishness will keep us as far from Jesus as those who plotted His death