

Remnant Life Church  
Sunday, March 20, 2016  
Palm Sunday

Grace Abounding – Pt 4  
An Entrance Out of Character  
Matt. 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

- We are beginning Holy Week
- The last week of Jesus' ministry before He was crucified
  - **Monday**
    - Curse of the fig tree – (Matt 21:18-19)
    - Second cleansing of the temple – (Matt. 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17)
    - Heals many (All 4 Gospels)
  - **Tuesday**
    - Explains the fig tree to His disciples (Mark 11:20-25)
    - Challenged by the Pharisees about His authority (Matt. 21:23; Mark 11:28; Luke 20:2)
    - Teachings from the Mt of Olives (The Olivet Discourse)
    - Weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41)
  - **Wednesday** (day of rest no record of activity)
  - **Thursday**
    - Jesus sends Peter and John into Jerusalem to prepare the Passover (Matt. 26:17-18; Mark 14:12-13; Luke 22:7-8)
    - The Passover meal is eaten (All 4 Gospels)
    - Jesus washes the feet of the disciples (John 13:1-17)
    - Jesus teaches about heaven, the Holy Spirit (John 14)
    - They go to the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:3; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39)
      - + Prays three times (Matt. 26:44; Mark 14:41)
    - The betrayal by Judas (Matt. 26:47-49; Mark 14:43-45; Luke 22:47; John 18:2-3)
      - + Jesus rebukes Peter's violent response (Luke 22:51; John 18:10-11)
      - + He heals Malchus' ear - His final miracle was an act of love and mercy (Luke 22:51)
    - His abandonment – the disciples flee (Matt. 26:56; Mark 14:50)
  - **Friday** (beginning in the earliest night hours)
    - The trials
      1. Annas – a religious official; the father-in-law of the High Priest (John 18:12)
      2. Caiaphas – the High Priest (Matt. 26:57; John 18:13)
      3. The Sanhedrin – the ruling Jewish body (Matt. 26:57; Mark 14:53)
      4. Pilate – first Roman trial (Matt. 27:2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66; John 18:28)
      5. Herod's Palace (Luke 23:6-12)
      6. Pilate – offers a choice to the people and releases the prisoner Barabbas (Matt. 27:17; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:18; John 18:40)
      7. The Praetorium Court – the common hall or courtyard of Pilate's house (Matt. 27:17; Mark 15:8; Luke 23:13; John 19:13)
    - The unfairness of the trials
      - + Two legal systems involved – the Jewish and the Roman

- + Annas, Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin under Jewish law
- + Pilate (twice) and Herod under Roman
- + There were laws that governed the Jewish legal system of which there were 7 violations because they were so intent on having Jesus put to death
  1. The judge was not impartial and no quorum of judges was present
  2. There were no formal accusations filed with the court
  3. Only could take place in the daylight hours; every one of Jesus' was under the cover of night
  4. A verdict could not be given on the same day as the arrest took place
  5. Seeking out hostile testimony to condemn someone was not permitted
  6. A man could not be convicted by his own testimony
  7. No legal evidence was ever presented
- + Even Pilate was illegal in his actions
  - ^ A man can only be pronounced innocent or guilty
  - ^ Pilate had publically pronounced Jesus innocent ([Luke 23:4](#); [John 18:38](#))
  - ^ Yet He still turned Him over to be executed

➤ We will talk more about what Jesus had to endure at His crucifixion at the Good Friday service (3:00; meeting room "A")

- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is one of only a few events that each of the 4 Gospels record
  - They are not identical in their accounts
  - Is it because they are in error or made up things later so that we can't trust what they wrote?
  - NO – it is because they each focused on, emphasized, and personally detailed different aspects
  - Just as 4 people today, living the same event, would not be identical in their accounts
- The events taking place precisely fulfill prophetic words written of Jesus nearly 500 years before they took place ([Zech. 9:9, 13:7, 11:12-13](#); [Isa 53:1, 12, 6:10](#); [Psalm 41:9, 118:22-23](#); [Jer 7:1](#))
- **Saturday**
  - Jesus stayed at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany about 2 miles from Jerusalem on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives ([John 12:1](#))
  - They were 3 of Jesus' closest friends and greatest supporters
  - At a time when the church leaders were planning to kill Lazarus as well ([John 12:10](#))
  - Being a friend and associating with Jesus was dangerous back then – it still is today!
  - While here Mary pours expensive oil on Jesus' feet and wipes the with her hair ([John 12:3](#))
    - We read of a similar act taking place at Simon the Pharisee's house ([Luke 7:36-50](#))
    - There were only 2 times that you anointed a person's feet and not the head
      - + The first was as a sign of unworthiness and humility (the sinful woman)
      - + The second was as a part of the ritual preparing of a corpse for burial

- Mary was declaring (perhaps unknowingly) what Jesus was about to do (**John 12:7-8**)
- An important public act because even though his disciples were still having a hard time grasping what was about to happen (**John 12:16**)
- Sunday
  - Why did Jesus want to ride into the city on a donkey's colt?
  - Why did He not just walk in like He had done every other time before
  - There was, and still is, purpose in everything that Jesus did
    - In the OT the donkey was an animal used to carry royalty or nobility (note that Mary rode a donkey into Bethlehem prior to giving birth to Jesus)
    - King David rode a donkey during his reign that he had Solomon ride on the way to his coronation (**1 Kings 1:33**)
    - If Jesus had been coming as a reigning, conquering leader he would have found a great horse to ride as a symbol of His might and power
    - Instead He presented Himself to the people in humility almost in contrast to their cries of "Save!" (Hosanna)
    - Jesus did come to save them but not from the Romans and their struggles on earth but from their sins and for all eternity
  - Many of the people laid their coats and palm branches on the ground – why?
    - Laying the coats was a sign of recognition, loyalty, and a promise to support (King Jehu in **2 Kings 9:13**)
    - The palms were often used as an expression (**Rev 7:9**)
      - + Common welcome to a returning conquering, victorious king from battle
      - + Waving them was a sign of joy and victory
      - + It was also a long-standing symbol of Jewish nationalism
      - + Often placed on graves as a symbol of eternal life
      - + The palms, growing in the desert, would have indicated water
      - + The message of the palms was Jesus, the victorious king, giver of the spring of eternal life
- Consider 2 things about what Jesus did today
  1. It was very out of character for Him
    - Prior to this Jesus did all that He could to downplay what the people thought He had come to do (free them from the Romans through a revolution)
    - **John 2** – “my times is not yet come” to His mother
    - **John 6** – people might make Him king by force so He left town
    - Healing – “don't tell anyone”
    - Jesus did all that He could to avoid the limelight...until today
  2. Jesus organized the event Himself
    - This was not a random set of events
    - The timing was important for the beginning of Passover
      - + Celebrating the freedom of the Jews from the Egyptians

- + The blood of the slaughtered lamb over the door would save the oldest child from death – it was a payment
  - + It pointed to another lamb that would be slaughtered for a much greater price – all of sin for eternity
  - But this and only this was the time
    - + People had tried to take Him before but He walked through them – it wasn't time
    - + Jesus was in complete control of the entire situation from beginning to end
  - You know what? He still is today!!
  - J.I. Packer – (British-born Canadian theologian) – “*If I understand God's love, why do I ever crumble and show discontent and resentment at the circumstances in which He has placed me?*”
- Wave the palm branches of your heart today
    - The victory is ours
    - The war has been won
    - Jesus had to endure horrific events at the end of this week but He did it willingly – for you and for me.
    - We should live like we actually believe that to be true – every day!
    - **Rev 3:20** - *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*