

Holy Week

PRAYER JOURNAL



Holy Week

Welcome

It's Holy Week! Some call it Passion Week — the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This week is packed with historical events rich in meaning and power. Each day we will meditate on what happened on that day in Jesus' life and in the lives of His followers and those who betrayed Him. As we follow His journey to the Cross, may our souls be set ablaze for Him. May we see our Savior in a new light and fall more in love with Him and be more awed at the gift of His love and His salvation!

We've curated these devotions from Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling* to help you spend time in Jesus' presence and we've included free journaling pages so you can take notes, write your thoughts and prayers, and answer some provoking questions to embolden and strengthen your faith this week.

Please share these resources with any of your friends and family who are seeking to learn more about Jesus by sending them to www.faithgateway.com/holyweek to claim their free devotions and companion prayer journal.

Happy Easter from all of us at Devotionals Daily and FaithGateway! Join us as we celebrate Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

In Him,

Laurie McClure, editor



Holy Week

Timeline

The Passion Week
Matthew 21-27

Key events during Jesus' final week

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

Credit: NIV QuickView Bible (copyright Zondervan, 2012)

Holy Week

Sunday

Let's back up a little and remember that Jesus had been staying in Bethany with His friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (see John 12). Mary lavishly anointed Jesus with spikenard (a very expensive perfumed oil) and Judas objected at the financial "waste" because he was secretly a thief. Then, on Palm Sunday, Jesus left Bethany and entered Jerusalem on a donkey as was prophesied in 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.*

The crowds hailed Him waving palm branches crying out "Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!" (see John 12:12-15). The people called out "Save us!" and were expecting a warrior king who would free them from Roman oppression. Jesus came on a donkey, in humility and peace with an entirely different kind of salvation in mind, an eternal one.

He is the same Savior who is with us today. Who longs for relationship, for time with us, for our whole hearts. For hearts like Mary's lavish with praise and devotion. For hearts that know that being in His presence is sacred, holy ground.

As we spend time in Jesus' presence today, what needs to be turned off, set aside, pushed off until later? As we meditate on this devotion, what is most impactful to you about being the child of the everlasting King?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Monday

On Monday of Passion week, Jesus cleansed the temple. People from all over traveled to Jerusalem and when they arrived they needed to exchange their Greek or Roman money in preparation for Passover. He saw the moneychangers within the temple courts, in the holy place, who not only were doing business in God's house, but they also took advantage of the poor and the widows. His heart was filled with love for those who sought God and for those who needed to be healed. So he threw out the moneychangers and healed the blind and the lame (see Matthew 21:14-15).

God wants our full worship, our absolute devotion, above all things temporal and worldly. Whenever we put something above Him, that thing, or person, or activity, or addiction has become an idol and His desire is to clean it out so we have freedom, healing, and wholeness in Jesus.

What are you worrying about? What has your attention day and night? What idol needs to be overturned by Jesus so you can be whole again?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Tuesday

On Tuesday of Easter week, Jesus modeled the power of words. We read in Matthew 21:23-27 about Jesus' clash with the chief priests and elders who indignantly wanted to know who He thought He was. They asked what authority gave Him the right to teach and to heal. Jesus, in His wisdom, chose to set a word trap for them by asking whether they thought John's baptism came from Heaven or from human origin. They were stumped by the question because they knew that if they answered "from Heaven" (as was widely believed by the people) Jesus would ask why they didn't follow him. And, if they answered "from human origin" as they actually believed, they would offend the people.

Jesus took care not to waste His words, but to only speak what would honor God and help others. How often do we just blurt out our gut-reactions without thinking first? Do you pause to ask God for help before answering in challenging situations when your blood pressure is up? What words and responses do you use that need to conform to the way of Jesus?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Wednesday

Do you ever wonder what happened to Judas Iscariot? At one point he made the decision to follow Jesus. He left his life and followed the Savior for three years. His ears heard every message and every parable, his feet walked the dusty roads with Jesus, he ate meals with Him, and Jesus was a friend to him. Judas saw the miracles, he was a witness to Heaven breaking into this world and upending injustice as well as injury and illness. And, yet on Wednesday of Passion Week, Judas, who had clearly been in a spiritual decline and degradation that was invisible to his friends, chose to betray his truest Friend for money (see Mark 14:10). Rebellion had filled him with anger, resentment, disappointment, disillusionment, and idolatry of money and he never confronted those lies in submission to God. They festered and Judas' faith faded into hatred and betrayal.

You've probably known people who have walked away from Jesus. Maybe they chose to live a sinful life, or pursued money, or sex, or fame, or they just got disappointed that God didn't do what they expected Him to do for them. Have you noticed that kind of bitterness, even a small seed in your own heart? What do you need to tell the Lord today? Let's replace our hurts and disappointments with honesty that leads to submission and praise of the God who provides every good thing!

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Thursday

Imagine being at the Last Supper with Jesus. The disciples had gathered in the upper room (see Mark 14:12-26) and had the meal prepared and the reclining table set. The meal probably would have included lamb, bitter herbs, olives, unleavened bread, stew, wine, and dates. Little did they realize the irony of enjoying the Passover celebration with the very Lamb of God who was about to be sacrificed on the Cross for them and for all of us.

When you think about Jesus' intentional self-sacrifice, what does that say to your present concerns? Will He not provide? Does He not care? He commands us to not worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34) and this is how — we remember that He is in control and He is good. Are you living the abundant, worry-free life He came to give us? What would happen if you lived only in today and left tomorrow's worries for tomorrow?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Friday

Today is Good Friday, but good is the very last way the disciples of Jesus would have described it on that Friday. The Messiah had been arrested, beaten, charged illegally, tried illegally, and terror gripped the hearts of Jesus' followers. *Are we next? How did this happen? Wasn't He supposed to overturn the government and be the new King, saving us from our enemies? And now, we're on the run for our lives?*

In John 19:25-27, we learn that some of the disciples even saw Him crucified: His mother, His aunt (the wife of Cleopas), Mary Magdalene, and John, the youngest of the disciples who called himself "the beloved." What agony they witnessed and endured in the witnessing!

It was only after His resurrection on Sunday that they could see what had happened on that awful, terrifying, horrific day. He had saved us! Forever! The 30-foot curtain veiling the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom by God Himself giving us, all of us who put our faith in Him, full access into the presence of our Savior.

What can hold us back from an intimate relationship with Jesus? Nothing! What's holding you back from giving Him your whole self, your whole heart?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Saturday

It's Silent Saturday. Jesus was dead and buried. Hope was dead and buried. The disciples were hiding. Grieving. Fearful. Literally, no one who had believed still believed and all were in despair. The Bible is silent as to what the disciples did except that they rested according to the Law of God (see Luke 23:56).

We have the blessing of knowing, unlike they did at that time, that Jesus is always with us. Always. He's not in the grave. We're not in a freefall. Hope is not dead. Even if it feels that way.

What in your life is hopeless and dead? What are you asking the Lord to heal? How are you looking to Him for help?

Reflections...

Prayers for today...

Holy Week

Sunday

He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Death did not have the victory; Jesus did! Can you imagine the terror of seeing a blazing-white angel warrior sitting on top of the stone where He had laid (Matthew 28:2-9)? Can you picture Mary Magdalene (in John 20:11-17) clinging to Jesus' neck in desperate joy scarcely believing that He was actually alive? What about the disciples when He showed up and said to those stunned men, "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19-20). No song is celebratory enough! No painting can convey the shocking joy! It must have felt like Heaven on earth!

And it was! Heaven is what we have just a tiny taste of while we're still on this earth until we're fully in His presence. His resurrection is the promise of ours one day, too. He is risen and so shall we be! Hallelujah!

Reflections...

Prayers for today...