

**Holy Week – A Week of Obedience and Passion**  
**Bible Study, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**St John Baptist Church – Pastor Charles A. Hall**

**Biblical references taken from:**

- The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Epistle of 1Corinthians chapter 15

**Palm Sunday - Also known as Passion Sunday:**

Throughout our nation and around the world, it is well known, this last Sunday (also referred to as Passion Sunday) officially kicked off Passion Week or Holy Week, which is representative of all the agonizing events that took place during Jesus' journey through Jerusalem to His place of crucifixion. This journey started with an act of total humility, Jesus asked his disciples, "to go and get Him a donkey and a colt, so He could travel from the foot of Mt Olives through the town of Jerusalem." We know that Jesus was all human, however, we also know that He was all God as well, so He could have summoned any type of transportation into Jerusalem he wanted, but yet, He chose an ass. What an act of humility, Jesus knew that it was not about Him, but rather completing the work that the Father had sent Him to do. Jesus had just completed what some would call today a successful ministry outreach, He had healed the sick, cast out demons, feed the hungry, given sight to the blind, and taught the truth.

**Holy Monday - Jesus Enters Jerusalem:**

Jesus and the disciples stop briefly just outside of Jerusalem at the foot of the Mount of Olives at a place called Bethphage. It was there that Jesus instructed two of the disciples to go into Jerusalem and fetch the ass and the colt, and if anyone ask, tell them, "**The Lord hath a need of them.**" Jesus set upon the ass and entered into Jerusalem with the multitudes following along, yelling Hosanna to the son of David and blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord. When he came into the city of Jerusalem the people were moved and said, "Who is this," and the multitude said, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." On Monday, Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all of them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seat of them that sold doves. Jesus then said, "**My house shall be called the house of prayer...**" This represents the fulfillment of the prophetic judgement spoken of in **Isaiah 56:7** and **Jeremiah 7:11**. Jesus then departed and went into the city of Bethany and lodged. The next day, Jesus returned to Jerusalem, he was hungry and He saw a fig tree with leaves, but there was no fruit. Jesus curse the tree and it immediately withered away. Jesus then told the disciples, if you have faith you will not only be able to do what was done to the fig tree, but you will be able to say unto the mountain be moved and thou shall be removed. Jesus told them, "whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive." Jesus then starts to teach in the temple and they question His authority **Matthew 21:23-27**. Jesus continued to teach through many parables.

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**Holy Tuesday - The conspiracies against Jesus begin:**

On this day the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees took council how they might discredit Jesus, but Jesus perceived their wickedness and said, “**Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?**” They questioned Jesus on whether it was lawful to give tributes unto Caesar, Jesus said unto them, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” The same day the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, however Jesus tells them, “**Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God**” **Mathew 22:12-30**. In **Matthew 23:13-33**, Jesus warns the disciples and the crowd about the hypocrisy and unbelief of their leaders the scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. Jesus pronounced seven (7) condemnations (Woes) on the false religious leaders.

**Holy Wednesday:**

Christians recall the day Judas Iscariot conspires with the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus. In **Mark 14:10-11**, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, went to the chief priest to betray Jesus, and when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money.

**Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday:**

On this day, Jesus has His last meal with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion, it is known as the Last Supper. The word Maundy is Latin comes from the first word of a Latin phrase “*Manatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*” which means, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” **John 13:34** Jesus then demonstrates total humility by washing the disciple’s feet. **John 13:1-11** On this day, many Christians participate in holy communion in remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with the disciples. At this meal, Jesus predicts what will happen on the next day. Jesus then provides the symbolic meaning of the last meal; And He took bread, gave thanks and brake it, and gave unto them saying, “**This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.**” Likewise, also the cup after supper, “**Saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.**” **Luke 22:19-20**. In **John 22:26**, Jesus provides a very important principle for living a Christian life: the greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Just prior to the meal, Jesus said, “**That one of the disciples would betray him,**” and they were exceedingly sorrowful and began to say unto Jesus, “Is it I?” Jesus says, “**The one who dippeth his hand with me in the dish is the same one which will betray me.**” Judas then says, “Master, is it I?” and Jesus said, “**Thou hast said.**” The actual betrayal took place in the Garden of Gethsemane, which is at the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives. Jesus had gone there with the disciples after the meal to pray. **Matthew 26:47-50** The soldiers of the chief priest armed with swords and clubs arrived at the appointed place to capture Jesus. **Matthew 26:56**, records that even the disciples fled as Jesus was arrested by the soldiers, even Peter who said he would never denounce Jesus disowned him three (3) times. Jesus endures six

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trials, three by Jewish leaders **John 18:12** and three by Romans leaders **Mark 14:53**. Jesus was subject to severe beating, whipping and mocking. Jesus was eventually handed over by chief priest Pontius Pilate to be crucified **Mark 15:6-15**.

**Good Friday - Also referred to as the day of preparation:**

For some, it is hard to imagine calling the day Jesus was crucified “Good Friday” however, we, who are mature believers know the bridge to reconciliation between God and humanity would not have been possible, if Jesus had not died. **Mark 15:22** says that Jesus was crucified at a place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. Before Jesus gave up His life, the sky turned dark for three hours **Mark 15:33**. In **Luke 23:46** it says, “Jesus cried out with a loud voice, Father into thy hands I commend my spirit” and having said this he gave up the ghost and died. In **Matthew 27:57-61** a rich man named Joseph ask the high priest, Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph received the body and wrapped him in clean linen cloth. He laid Jesus in a new tomb in the rocks and rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher. And Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary was sitting against the sepulcher.

**Holy Saturday:**

Jesus lay in the rich man tomb all day Saturday. In **Matthew 27:66**, the bible says they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it since Jesus had stated that after three days He would rise again, and Pilate was fearful that Jesus disciples would steal His body and people would believe the prophecy. Jesus had foretold of His resurrection in **John 2:19** “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

**Resurrection Sunday:**

In **Matthew 28:1-6**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the sepulcher and a great earthquake occurred, and an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and said to Mary and Mary, “Fear not, for He is not here, he has risen, see the place where the Lord lay.” Jesus later appeared to Peter, then the other disciples and lastly to the Apostle Paul **1Corinthians 15:5-7**. Jesus’ death was a sacrifice and atonement for our sins. The resurrection of Jesus is a gift and fulfillment of His promise, it is the very foundation of Christianity. Since the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all mankind is born with a sin nature. The Lord tells us that there is a price to be paid for sin and that cost is death. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” **Romans 6:23**. A life without Christ can only offer eternal death. However, the acceptance of Jesus as our risen Savior gives us eternal life. If Jesus Christ had not defeated death and rose again our entire religion and belief would be of no avail.

- **1Corinthians 15:13-14** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:<sup>14</sup>And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.