Palm Sunday 4-14-19

Luke 9:51

Introduction:

Look at Holy Week.

I thought today that we would take a look at the days of the week that we refer to as Holy Week. The days that begin with Palm Sunday and end up with Easter Sunday. Each Gospel has its own account of Jesus’ last week and it’s not always easy to get the events in order, but this seems to be pretty accurate.

Lots of Scripture. Write down and study later.

I have lots of Scripture that describe these days. I’ll read some of it but leave most to you to look through on your own in the coming week. These are important days to remember that lead up to the saving work of our Saviour on the cross.

Lk 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem. The King James Bible translates this as “set His face” toward Jerusalem. We see here an absolute determination to go to Jerusalem and perform what He came for. He was determined to fulfil His Father’s will and bring about God’s plan for salvation. He had already warned His disciples that He was going to face death. It is to their credit, that they went with Him even though they thought it would mean their own death, too. (John 11:16)

Prophecy – Passover, Mt Moriah:

There was a lot of prophecy concerning Jesus that He needed to fulfil. Some of this prophecy, Jesus acted out in full knowledge of what He was doing, for example in His refusal to speak to Herod. Some took place in the sovereignty of God, such as the timing of the crucifixion on the Passover.

Jesus was the Passover Lamb. The death of a lamb in place of the people had been acted out for centuries by the Israelites. (Ex 12) It should have been foremost in their minds as they watched what Jesus went through.

Gen 22 - Abraham took his son Isaac to Mt Moriah to sacrifice him. Mt Moriah is where Jerusalem is located. The LORD God provided a ram in place of Isaac; the perfect example of substitutionary death. Jesus, God’s only Son, died in our place.

Isaiah 53 is called the suffering servant. It describes Jesus’ life and death.

The book of Jonah again describes a substitutionary sacrifice and Jesus’ three-day burial.

Journey from Galilee to Jerusalem:

The Gospels tell of Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and of His ministry along the way. He traveled through Samaria, crossed the Jorden River a couple of times, went through Jericho, and ended up in Bethany. During Holy Week, Jesus spent His days in Jerusalem and His nights in Bethany. In Bethany were the homes of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, and also of Simon the Leper. These are probably where Jesus and His disciples stayed.

Sunday:

Triumphal entry – Matthew 21:1-11

Fulfilled prophecy – Zechariah 9:9.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
He is just and endowed with salvation,  
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

As the crowd celebrated Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem, Matthew records that they shouted: *‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!*

What the crowd cried out closely resembled Psalm 118:25-26.

O Lord, do save, we beseech You;  
O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;  
We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

“Hosanna” means “Lord, save”. The people believed that Jesus was their coming King and that He would save them from the Romans. They didn’t know that He was coming to be crucified, suffering in their place, in order to truly save them; to bring them the ultimate salvation of their souls.

Luke’s account, in chapter 19 gives us a few more details. There were Pharisees in the crowd who were appalled at what the crowds were shouting and told Jesus to rebuke His disciples. He answered them, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!” And then Jesus wept over the city; He knew the rejection that was coming and He knew the destruction that Jerusalem faced in just a few years.

Mark 11:11 tells us that after looking around the temple, Jesus and His disciples went back to Bethany. This was surly confusing to the crowds who expected a revolution to begin. Actually, it had; satan and death and sin were about to be overthrown.

Monday:

In Mark 11:12-14, we learn that in the morning, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus approached a fig tree that should have had fruit but had none, which He cursed. Mark 11:20-26 lets us know that the fig tree was withered by the next morning. Certainly, the fig tree of Israel was facing a withering because they were about to reject their Messiah; but it is also a warning to us. Jesus expects fruit. He is the vine and we are the branches; if we do not produce, we can be cut off.

Matthew 21:12-13. When Jesus entered the temple, He found money changers and people selling sacrificial animals in the court of the Gentiles. In addition to people being cheated, the Gentiles were forced to try to worship in all this commotion. Jesus drove them out of the temple. This is the second time in Jesus’ ministry where He cleansed the temple, the first is recorded in John 2:13-17. Jesus quoted Isaiah 56:7 – “My house shall be called a house of prayer”. A good thing for us to remember.

Jesus’ actions in the temple cut into the pockets of some of the chief priests and scribes. Mark 11:18 - The chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and *began* seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching. The religious leadership had made the determination that Jesus must be killed and so, they began trying to think of a way to do so. But their biggest problem was the people. They had decided to wait until after the Passover celebration to kill Jesus. Mark 14:2 - for they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people. The Sadducees were in good standing with the Romans and the Romans didn’t like riots. They had to be careful.

Tuesday:

Tuesday was a busy day. It was full of teaching and confrontation. It seems that the religious leadership determined to try to discredit Jesus on this day. They set 4 traps for Him.

#1 Mark 11:27-33 – The leadership demand to know where Jesus’ authority comes from. Jesus answers with a question of His own which they can’t answer. “Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me.”

Jesus followed up with 3 parables. These are in Matthew 21:28 through Matthew 22 :14.

The first was the parable of the man with two sons and a vineyard. Jesus let them know that since they didn’t accept John’s baptism, they wouldn’t see the Kingdom of Heaven.

The second was the parable of the vineyard owner and the tenants. Jesus let them know that they were the tenants and they were heading for a bad end.

The third parable was of a wedding banquet. The invited guests mistreated the servants sent with the invitation. Again, these were left out while others were able to enjoy the feast.

There is a pattern here of those who were given responsibility neglecting their duties and being punished while the lowly and humble were accepted in their place.

#2 Luke 20:19-26 – Taxes to Caesar.

#3 Mark 12:18-27 – Sadducees question the resurrection. Jesus answers using the Pentateuch, which is the only part of the writings the Sadducees would accept.

#4 Matthew 22:34-40 – What is the greatest commandment.

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. 35One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, 36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38This is the great and foremost commandment. 39The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Jesus did not fall for any of their traps. He ended by explaining the importance of love to people who had great hatred for Him.

On the way back to Bethany that night, Jesus taught His disciples on the Mount of Olives about the destruction of Jerusalem and about His return. Matthew 24.

Wednesday:

There isn’t much specifically recorded about Jesus’ actions this day although Luke 21:37-38 tells us: 37Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mount that is called Olivet. 38And all the people would get up early in the morning *to come* to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

So, Jesus probably taught in the temple that day. It is also likely that this is the day we read about in Matthew 26:6-13 where a woman anointed Jesus’ head with costly perfume. Most likely this is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

Matthew 26:14-16 records a very important event for this day.

14Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. 16From then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

We see here very clearly the sovereignty of God taking place. Recall that the leaders had decided to wait until after the Passover festival to kill Jesus. But in God’s plan, Jesus had to be the Passover sacrifice. In Judas, God made them an offer they couldn’t refuse in order to put things on His time schedule.

The plot to kill Jesus in now in full swing.

Thursday:

First thing Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal. Luke 22:7-13

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13:

-Jesus washes the disciple’s feet. (Tells Peter that one who is clean only needs to wash his feet. We are cleansed of our sins in Christ, we continue to confess to keep our feet clean.)

-Institutes the Lord’s Supper.

-Predicts Judas’ betrayal.

-Predicts Peter’s denial.

Drastic difference between Peter and Judas. Both remorseful. Peter turned back to Christ, Judas did not.

Maundy Thursday – root Latin word “madam” which means “commandment” or “mandate”.

Jesus gave a new commandment this day recorded in John 13:34.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

After supper, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36. Here is where Jesus grieved and prayed. Here is where Judas led the soldiers to arrest Jesus.

Friday:

Either late Thursday night or early Friday morning is when Jesus was arrested. A powerful event takes place here. John 18:4-6.

4So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and \*said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He \*said to them, “I am *He*.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6So when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

It is important to know that Jesus’ response was “I AM”. The same response Moses received when he spoke with the LORD in the burning bush. Here was deity announcing who He was. Just do to the power of those words, the people there recoiled and fell to the ground. They could not stand before God.

You would have thought they would have had enough sense to leave Him alone right then. But then we would not have salvation. This is simply further proof that Jesus willingly laid down His life on our behalf. He could have stopped it.

Here Jesus’ prediction of betrayal by Judas came to pass. He was taken to Annas and Caiaphas, the High Priest. In this courtyard, Peter, who had just drawn a sword and was ready to take on a Roman cohort, went to pieces at the questioning of a servant girl. Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s denial came to pass.

On this Friday, this Good Friday, Jesus was mocked, beaten, and crucified. From the cross He showed forgiveness to His executioners and a criminal, provided for His mother, and He died. This is so important. This was a real death; Jesus was a real human-being and His physical body experienced actual death. He was taken from the cross and lain in a tomb, a rich man’s tomb. Isaiah 53:9.

His grave was assigned with wicked men,  
Yet He was with a rich man in His death

At His death, the rocks cried out.

Saturday:

Jesus’ body lay in a tomb.

But His spirit was not there. The Bible gives us different possibilities because there are some things we just aren’t sure how to interpret. He may have gone to bring the Gospel to the Old Testament saints so they could go on into heaven. He may have gone to lead those spirits into heaven. He may have gone straight to heaven just as our spirits will do when we die in Christ. Someday, we will know.

Sunday:

Easter Sunday.

All the Gospels record women coming to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus body for proper burial. All of them are surprised by what they find (and don’t find). Angel’s are there to speak to them. Perhaps the most wonderous thing they are told is recorded in Matthew 28:6.

He is not here.

Prayer

LORD, as we begin this week of remembering the days leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Saviour, our hearts are full. We can only wonder at the blindness that was displayed, and yet, we pray that we are not blind. We know that we are weak, and so, we pray that we do not betray You; we pray that we do not deny You.

Lord Jesus, You are so good. We cannot fathom the love You have for us. The love which caused Your willing obedience to the Father for our salvation. That love and obedience show Your glory and may it be multiplied time and again.

Your body was not left in the pit, it was not left to corruption. By what You have done, we can hold on to that same sure hope. Death and sin have lost their hold on us. Satan’s power has been broken. And it is all through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

And it is in His name we pray

Amen