



THE KING OF KINGS

A DAILY EASTER
DEVOTIONAL

SPEND EACH DAY OF EASTER
WEEK STUDYING THE NATURE
OF THE KING OF KINGS

THE KING OF KINGS

Holy Week is one of the most important weeks in the Christian tradition. It is a time to remember the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry that ultimately leading to His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. As we journey through this resource, our hope is to provide you a daily opportunity to focus your heart and mind on the moments leading up to the moment that Jesus triumphantly returning to defeat death, hell, and the grave. Many years before this eventful week, the prophet Isaiah spoke these words regarding Jesus and His ministry leading to the cross:

THE LORD GOD HAS GIVEN ME
THE TONGUE OF THOSE WHO ARE
TAUGHT,
THAT I MAY KNOW HOW TO SUSTAIN WITH
A WORD HIM WHO IS WEARY.
MORNING BY MORNING HE AWAKENS;
HE AWAKENS MY EAR TO HEAR AS
THOSE WHO ARE TAUGHT.
THE LORD GOD HAS OPENED MY EAR,
AND I WAS NOT REBELLIOUS;
I TURNED NOT BACKWARD.
I GAVE MY BACK TO THOSE WHO STRIKE,
AND MY CHEEKS TO THOSE WHO PULL
OUT THE BEARD;
I HID NOT MY FACE
FROM DISGRACE AND SPITTING.
BUT THE LORD GOD HELPS ME;
THEREFORE I HAVE NOT BEEN
DISGRACED;
THEREFORE I HAVE SET MY FACE
LIKE A FLINT,
AND I KNOW THAT I SHALL NOT BE
PUT TO SHAME.

ISAIAH 50:4-7

Follow along each day this week as we look at our Savior who set His face like a flint toward Jerusalem to accomplish The Gospel in our lives.



THE
HUMBLE
KING

On Palm Sunday, we focus on Jesus as the Humble King. The disciples often mistook His mission as a show of force in which He would return and deliver Israel with the sword. Palm Sunday was an expression of a King who would often repeat Himself by saying that the Kingdom of God was near - not in physical power, but in Spirit. Take a look at the following narrative:

“THE DISCIPLES WENT AND DID AS JESUS HAD DIRECTED THEM. THEY BROUGHT THE DONKEY AND THE COLT AND PUT ON THEM THEIR CLOAKS, AND HE SAT ON THEM. MOST OF THE CROWD SPREAD THEIR CLOAKS ON THE ROAD, AND OTHERS CUT BRANCHES FROM THE TREES AND SPREAD THEM ON THE ROAD. AND THE CROWDS THAT WENT BEFORE HIM AND THAT FOLLOWED HIM WERE SHOUTING, “HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!”
MATTHEW 21:6-9

As you reflect on the Humble King riding a donkey into Jerusalem, take time to consider the words of the crowd. They recognized Jesus as the one who would come to save them as they spread palm branches in his path and shouted, “Hosanna!” The simplest way to translate Hosanna is to say, “Save us, we pray!” The people saw Jesus as the King who would establish God’s Kingdom and bring them salvation.

Today, reflect on our Humble King who brings salvation. What are areas that you hope to see Him move in? What are areas that you have seen Him provide salvation that you can approach with gratitude? As you move throughout your day, consider the “Hosanna” moments that you can lift before the Lord.

MONDAY THE JUST KING

Monday of Holy Week is typically seen as the day that Jesus cleared out the temple from the unjust money changers and merchants. Matthew 21 tells us:

**“AND JESUS ENTERED THE TEMPLE AND DROVE OUT ALL WHO SOLD AND BOUGHT IN THE TEMPLE, AND HE OVERTURNED THE TABLES OF THE MONEY-CHANGERS AND THE SEATS OF THOSE WHO SOLD PIGEONS. HE SAID TO THEM, “IT IS WRITTEN, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER,’ BUT YOU MAKE IT A DEN OF ROBBERS.” AND THE BLIND AND THE LAME CAME TO HIM IN THE TEMPLE, AND HE HEALED THEM.”
MATTHEW 21:12-14**

In His last week of ministry, Jesus spent time crying for justice and in pure worship. He overturned the tables of those who would seek to rob people coming to worship and undid their predatory schemes. He declared that the temple should be a house of prayer and proceeded to heal people in miraculous ways.

As you consider Jesus’ actions today, consider the ways that He has called us to “clear out our temple” of the things that make us hold distance from Him. This could be sinful patterns or areas of willful disobedience. Take time in repentance and ask God to make your heart a “House of Prayer.”

TUESDAY THE ANOINTED KING

On Tuesday of Holy Week, tradition points toward two different events that happened. First, Jesus was anointed by a woman with an alabaster flask. This event is recorded in each of the Gospels. It is important to note that in Matthew 26, Jesus points to this anointing as preparing His body for what was to come:

“IN POURING THIS OINTMENT ON MY BODY, SHE HAS DONE IT TO PREPARE ME FOR BURIAL. TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHEREVER THIS GOSPEL IS PROCLAIMED IN THE WHOLE WORLD, WHAT SHE HAS DONE WILL ALSO BE TOLD IN MEMORY OF HER.”MATTHEW 26:12-13

The second event was Jesus preaching to His disciples on the Mount of Olives. This is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse. In this message, He is preparing His disciples for His death and resurrection. You can find this message in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

In both of these events, we see Jesus approach His followers with stark and important reminders of what is about to happen. He had foreshadowed His purpose on the earth for years, but as He faced the reality of His impending crucifixion, He took time to prepare them for what was to come.

As you consider these events today, read the passages that are associated with Jesus' instruction. Consider what wisdom from these passages is important for you today. How does Jesus' preparation of His followers help us to see His work on the cross in a more holistic way?

WEDNESDAY THE BETRAYED KING

It is widely believed that Wednesday of Holy Week was the day that Judas commenced His plan to betray Jesus. Sandwiching the story of Jesus' anointing at Bethany, we see two distinct narratives come together in Matthew 26.

"THEN THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE GATHERED IN THE PALACE OF THE HIGH PRIEST, WHOSE NAME WAS CAIAPHAS, AND PLOTTED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO ARREST JESUS BY STEALTH AND KILL HIM. BUT THEY SAID, "NOT DURING THE FEAST, LEST THERE BE AN UPROAR AMONG THE PEOPLE." MATTHEW 26:3-5

"THEN ONE OF THE TWELVE, WHOSE NAME WAS JUDAS ISCARIOT, WENT TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SAID, "WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME IF I DELIVER HIM OVER TO YOU?" AND THEY PAID HIM THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER. AND FROM THAT MOMENT HE SOUGHT AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETRAY HIM." MATTHEW 26:14-16

It is widely believed that Judas' decision wasn't one that was sudden. He had spent three years walking with Jesus and the decision to betray Him didn't form overnight. It is clear that Judas' decision to betray Jesus served a higher purpose - to fulfill prophecy and to eventually lead to Jesus' death and resurrection.

As you think about this decision to betray Jesus, consider the parts of your heart that might have been hardened to Jesus' message. Take time to think about the areas that might be distant from Him. How can the narrative of Judas' betrayal help us to draw closer to Jesus in this season?



THE PROPHESIED KING

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper for Jesus and His disciples. As Jesus laid out a meal before His disciples, He washed their feet, fed them, and led them in communion. He also spent time blessing them and sharing with them about the purpose of His life and death. The term Maundy, itself, comes from the Latin word “mandatum” which points to the New Commandment that Jesus gave His disciples - to love one another as Jesus had loved them. Matthew 26:26-29 records the Lord’s Supper:

“NOW AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND AFTER BLESSING IT BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, “TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY.” AND HE TOOK A CUP, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS HE GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, “DRINK OF IT, ALL OF YOU, FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, WHICH IS Poured OUT FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. I TELL YOU I WILL NOT DRINK AGAIN OF THIS FRUIT OF THE VINE UNTIL THAT DAY WHEN I DRINK IT NEW WITH YOU IN MY FATHER’S KINGDOM.”

After this, we see Jesus take His disciples to Gethsemane to pray. He is so burdened that He asks the Lord to remove the cup if it is possible, but concedes that God’s will is to be done. Shortly after, He is betrayed and handed over to be judged. Consider these events as you think through the importance of Maundy Thursday.

Take time today to read through John 13-17 (The Upper Room Discourse) and think about Jesus’ final instructions, prayers, and commission to His disciples. This was the last time that He would spend with them in intentional community before He was apprehended. What stands out to you from this passage? What is the importance of commemorating the Last Supper? What does this mean as we look toward Easter?



THE SACRIFICIAL KING

On Good Friday, we see Jesus face sentencing and torture, which would lead to His crucifixion and death. This is the culmination of The Gospel - Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose to put death to death.

AS YOU THINK ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY, FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE NARRATIVE OF JESUS' JOURNEY TO THE CROSS.

READ MATTHEW 26:47-27:56 SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY.

Take time to note any emotions or thoughts that come to the surface as you read this passage. What does it mean for Jesus to be our Sacrificial King? As you read through the narrative of Jesus' last moments of ministry on the earth, what stands out to you? Are there any details that you might have missed previously?

Spend time in prayer reflecting on what you've read. Talk to God openly and honestly about how it has impacted you. What action do you feel led to take in light of Jesus' journey to the cross?



THE TRIUMPHANT KING

Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Even though things looked dire, He was true to His word and rose again to defeat death, hell, and the grave! His resurrection not only fulfilled the prophecies and showed the world that He was who He said He was, but it provide hope and healing for our hearts as we walk in a new relationship with the Father. When He sees us, He sees the work of Jesus!

TODAY, THINK THROUGH THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

WHAT DID JESUS' RESURRECTION SAVE YOU FROM?

WHAT DID JESUS' RESURRECTION SAVE YOU TO?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO BE A NEW CREATION IN HIM?

WHAT PROMISES ARE YOU HOLDING ONTO BECAUSE OF HIS RESURRECTION?

WHY IS HIS TRIUMPH SO IMPORTANT FOR THE WAY THAT WE EMBRACE LIFE NOW?

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO BRING THIS HOPE TO OTHERS?

HE IS RISEN!

RESOURCES FOR THE SEASON

WE HOPE THIS DAILY JOURNEY IS BENEFICIAL AS YOU ENCOUNTER HOLY WEEK. CONSIDER CHECKING OUT SOME OF THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES AS SUPPLEMENTS IN YOUR STUDY.

IT IS FINISHED

by Charles Martin



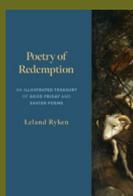
THE RISEN KING

by C.H. Spurgeon



POETRY OF REDEMPTION

by Leland Ryken



EASTER

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GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

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