

## Passion Week Challenge

Reliving the Last Week of Jesus' Life

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Did You Know?  
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The last week of Jesus' life is often called the Passion Week. It is called this because the word πάσχω (Pascho) in Greek means "to suffer." So this is the week of suffering for Jesus. While most of us understand Jesus suffered on Good Friday, we must realize that Jesus suffered this whole week, and as we read through the Passion Week, we will see His suffering. An ongoing and sometimes challenging field of study is matching the events of each of the Gospels to one another. For this reason, and the reason of two separate calendars being used by different Gospel writers, the timing of the events, or sometimes the sequence, can be debated. There are two calendars used in the four Gospels, the Roman and Jewish calendars. The Roman calendar is what we use today, and goes from midnight to midnight. But the Jewish calendar goes from sundown to sundown. This can create some timing issues. For the most part, this is an accurate depiction of the sequence of events on each of the seven days of Passover. As you read, do not merely read to accomplish the reading, but interact with it. Put yourself in the shoes of a disciple or an onlooker or a Pharisaical religious leader. Live it. Don't just read it. See how Jesus suffered at each turn until Resurrection Sunday!

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Sunday, March 24, 2013  
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Events	Passages
The Triumphal Entry	Mt. 21:1-9, Mk. 11:1-10, Lk. 19:28-40, John 12:12-19
Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem	Luke 19:41-44
The Return to Bethany	Mt. 21:17, Mk. 11:11
Helpful Notes	
<p>The Triumphal Entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus entered from the North. The first thing He saw was the Herodian Palace (map).</li> <li>• The next thing He saw was the temple of Ezra.</li> <li>• It is believed that on Sunday, Jesus only observed the city and wept.</li> <li>• This event is prophesied about in Isaiah 62:8-12 (and Zech 9:9). This is a positive prophecy about the coming Messiah.</li> <li>• The Jewish leaders know about these prophecies. Jesus is not "pulling the wool over their eyes."</li> <li>• Notice the overtones of the "large crowd" (Matthew) of disciples:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– "Hosanna" comes from the Hebrew word for "save."</li> <li>– "Son of David" is an explicit reference to the Davidic Covenant and the Messiah who would save God's people.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<p><b>Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This section ties into Isaiah 22:1-7. Jesus weeps as He suffers over the dead city of Jerusalem.</li> <li>• In v. 44, some might say Jesus is prophesying about the Roman destruction of Jerusalem under Tiberius in the war of 67-70 AD.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Return to Bethany</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This section ties into Isaiah 22:1-7. Jesus weeps as He suffers over the dead city of Jerusalem.</li> <li>• In v. 44, some might say Jesus is prophesying about the Roman destruction of Jerusalem under Tiberius in the war of 67-70 AD.</li> </ul>
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Monday, March 25, 2013  
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<b>Events</b>	<b>Passages</b>
Jesus Curses the Fig Tree	Mt. 21:18-19, Mk. 11:12-14
Jesus Cleanses the Temple	Mt 21:10-17, Mk 11:11-17, Lk 19:45-46, Jn 2:13-17
Jesus Teaches in the Temple: Questions about Authority	Mt 21:23-27, Mk 11:27-33, Lk 20:1-8, Jn 2:18-22
Jesus Teaches in the Temple: Three Parables to the Pharisees	The Two Sons (Mt 21:28-32) The Wicked Vineyard Owner (Mt 21:33-46, Mk 12:1-12, Lk 20:9-19) The Great Supper (Mt 22:1-14, Lk 14:15-24)
Conspiracy Against Jesus	Mk 11:18-19, Lk 19:47-48, Jn 11:45-53

**Helpful Notes**

- Today we will see more of Christ’s suffering as He must judge Israel for their failure to see their King in their midst.
  - He suffers as He finds no sustenance in the fig tree.
  - He suffers as He must cause an uproar to get them to see what they’ve done to His Father’s house
  - He suffers as they demand He tell them of His authority
  - He suffers as He gives the Parables of Judgment to the religious leaders and they still do not understand.

**Jesus Curses the Fig Tree**

- Everyone in Palestine knew that with a new season of figs, the fruit came before the leaves
- This barren tree is a symbol of God’s judgment on Israel.
  - There was no fruit in the religious leaders, only a covering.
  - Jesus condemned Israel for its lack of fruit.

**Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

- Remember this is Ezra’s Temple, not Solomon’s. There is a certain lack luster to Ezra’s Temple compared with Solomon’s
  - Ezra’s temple was half as large and three times less luxurious than Solomon’s temple

- The Temple is the only place where sacrifices could be offered. This would be considered to be the one place where everything was spiritually okay
- There was no supposed treachery in this sanctuary. It was all peaceful
- This is the spiritual center of Israel
- Sacrificial animals were sold in the Gentile Courts.
  - This was the one place where any evangelism would occur
  - This is the place where “God-fearers” went to worship
- A certain type of coin had to be used to buy the sacrifices. This coin must be converted by the market inside the gate
- The problem was that in converting to the temple coin, a slight amount of value was lost in the first coin. This is why Jesus says “a den of robbers.”
- It’s not just that business was happening in God’s house, it was also that shady business was happening
- Jesus was judging Israel for blatant sin against God in His own house, before His very eyes, in His own presence!

#### Questions about Authority

- Jesus turns the tables on His malignant enemies
- They tried to catch Jesus between a rock and a hard place, but He was the one to do the squishing
- John the Baptist was a dangerous subject for the Pharisees, but the people, who were more numerous than the Pharisees loved John the Baptist
- They also loved Jesus for a few days.
- Jesus suffers here because they questioned His authority. He had ultimate authority and they had no idea what they were asking
- Israel is judged because the people questioned God’s authority placed in His miracle-working sign. The miracles, just like the temple presence, should have been convincing enough. But the people were already too dead to find any life signs.

#### Three Parables to the Pharisees: How the Parables are Alike

- Jesus always suffers and Israel is always judged.
- There is always a last straw (Jesus).
- The religious leaders who should have known the Messiah make light of His actual appearance.
- The end is always negative for the Pharisees.
- The end result is the judgment of Israel’s religious leaders.
- Just as they rejected Jesus, God will now reject them.
- The Kingdom of God will now open up to the “less deserving” Gentiles.

#### Conspiracy Against Jesus

- What was the motive of the Pharisees in wanting to kill Jesus?
  - Try to see it from their side
  - What had Jesus done against them?
- They took the wrath of God personally against the Messenger. Instead of change, they sought blood.

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Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
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Events	Passages
The Figless Fig Tree Withers	Mt 21:20-22, Mk 11:20-26
Paying Taxes to Caesar	Mt 22:15-22, Mk 12:13-17, Lk 20:20-26
The Greatest Commandment	Mt 22:34-40, Mk 12:28-34, Lk 10:25-28
About Resurrection	Mt 22:23-33, Mk 12:18-27, Lk 20:27-40
About David's Son	Mt 22:41-46, Mk 12:35-37a, Lk 20:41-44
Helpful Notes	
<p>The Figless Fig Tree Withers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone in Palestine knew that with a new season of figs, the fruit came before the leaves</li> <li>• This barren tree is a symbol of God's judgment on Israel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– There was no fruit in the religious leaders, only a covering.</li> <li>– Jesus condemned Israel for its lack of fruit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Religious Leaders' Ground Game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pharisees' biggest problem rode into Jerusalem on a colt on Sunday, destroyed their temple practices on Monday, and is now teaching the people using them as the illustrations of spiritual deadness.</li> <li>• How would this make you feel?</li> <li>• Jesus is such a serious problem, alliances, trick questions, and questions about things not even believed in will be asked.</li> <li>• But Jesus was in good standing with the people! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Pharisees were in the minority on the subject of this up and coming Rabbi</li> <li>– He was winning the popularity contest, which they used to win</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The only way to beat Him would be to catch Him in His teaching. The goal became how to catch Jesus off guard by asking hard questions that even the Pharisees could not answer and live.</li> <li>• As we will see, not only does Jesus past their little tests and riddles, He puts them in the spotlight.</li> <li>• When Jesus leaves them hanging in front of the people, they have nothing to say.</li> <li>• In an effort to trap Jesus and make Him less among the people, they actually end up being the object of their goal.</li> <li>• Questions ranging from Politics to Theology are asked of Jesus.</li> </ul> <p>Paying Taxes to Caesar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herodians and Pharisees – these were Herod's supporters and Jews, enemies except when it comes to Jesus. Caesar commanded the tax but the Jews hated paying it.</li> <li>• If Jesus said, "Don't pay Caesar," the Jews would be happy, but Jesus would be in jail because of Herod's IRS police.</li> <li>• If Jesus said, "Pay Caesar," the Jews would be angry and want to have Him killed, because paying a worldly Caesar would be against Judaism.</li> <li>• Give to God what is God's – while Caesar's image was on the coin, God's image is on every human being.</li> <li>• There is a contrast between Caesar, who was believed to be a god (Emperor Worship) and God.</li> </ul>	

- Jesus suffers because the people refuse to give themselves to God. Judgment comes because it was for this reason man was made.
- Jesus is reaching out a few last times but the dead bodies around Him are not hearing His final pleas.

#### The Greatest Commandment

- The first rule comes from Deut 6:4-6, and the second from Lev 19:18. Both from the Torah!
- Jesus adds “mind” to the list from the Old Testament.
  - Remember who He is speaking to: a lawyer and the Teachers of the Law
- Mk 12:32-34 – The scribe who sums up Jesus adds something Jesus did not say in v. 33. He puts love on a higher plain than sacrifices to God for wronging someone else.
- Jesus suffers because they did not understand the very foundation of the Law.
- Jesus brings judgment because the Pharisees were treating Him with hate while they are talking about love and the law

#### About Resurrection

- The Sadducees don’t believe in the resurrection at all!
- Levirate Marriage Custom – Deut 25:5-10
  - This custom was meant to keep a family name and line intact, to make sure that the name is carried on, and the land is still owned by the family.
  - Why did she take his sandal? Land was given in a portion according to how much someone could walk in an allotted amount of time. It was a symbol of stealing land from her.
- Misunderstanding of Marriage in heaven. They didn’t believe in an afterlife either!
- They are going beyond the scope of their beliefs to attempt to trap Jesus.
- Judgment comes on them because they, as religious leaders, should have known the Word of God and His power, but they did not.
- Jesus gives them two answers:
  - Marriage was an attempt at a rabbit trail, but he answers that eternity is not simply an extension of the present.
  - Marriage will no longer be because eternal beings don’t need to procreate.
  - More importantly, resurrection is easily understood from the Torah, as well as the rest of the Old Testament
- Jesus pulls out a grammatical illustration to prove His point.
  - A look at Exod 3:6. God speaks to Moses about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who have been ‘dead’ since before the 400 years in Egypt.
  - God says, “I am.” Present tense, not past.
  - Therefore, they are still alive! There is an afterlife.
- Jesus suffers because the Sadducees believe so little of God’s Word (only the Torah).
- They don’t believe in the hope of an afterlife. They don’t believe in the resurrection, which He is about to do.
- Jesus suffers because He is their hope, standing right in front of them, and they reject the hope He will bring

#### About David’s Son

- A quote from Psalm 110, a Messianic Psalm.
- Jesus now goes on the offensive. The time for the Jews to “fess up” is coming to a close.
- The Messiah could be both David’s Son and his Lord.

- As a human, He was David’s Son, born of David’s line. This was acceptable to the Pharisees.
- As God, He was David’s Lord, the One who preceded and succeeded David
- The Pharisees are judged because they will not accept the deity of the Messiah standing in front of them.
- Jesus suffers through their rejection of His deity. This was the last straw. No more would He attempt to reason with His people. The wrath of God would now come.

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Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
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Events	Passages
Woes and Laments	Woes: Mt 23:1-36, Mk 12:37b-40, Lk 20:45-47. Laments: Mt 23:37-39, Lk 13:34-35
Disciple Teaching: Jesus goes from public teaching to private teaching	
The Widow’s Offering	Mk 12:41-44, Lk 21:1-4
Temple Destruction	Mt 24:1-2, Mk 13:1-2, Lk 21:5-6 Mt 24:15-22, Mk 13:14-20, Lk 21:20-24
Signs of the Times and Abomination of Desolation	Mt 24:3-14, Mk 13:3-13, Lk 21:7-19
False Christs and Prophets	Mt 24:23-28, Mk 13:21-23
Coming of the Son of Man	Mt 24:29-31, Mk 13:24-27, Lk 21:25-28

**Helpful Notes**

- Jesus faces off with the Pharisees one last time on Wednesday morning: to lament over Israel, to judge the Pharisees with woes, and to point to the model of the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus suffers as His own disciples misunderstand the meaning of His burial anointing at Bethany.

**Woes and Laments**

- Mark and Luke are short texts while Matthew is much longer. Matthew lived in a Jewish community dealing with a separation from Judaism when he wrote his gospel.
- These might be seen as a negative to the Eight Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12).
- For a detailed study on the differences between Matthew’s woes and Mark and Luke’s woes, ask Pastor for more information!
- Jesus suffers as he delivers the judgment and points out all of the past events that have grieved God.
- The judgment is final. They are left speechless and smoldering. Jesus will pay – with his life.
- Israel’s repeated rejection of God has finally reached its breaking point.
- Here is the final reply to Jesus’ rejection. From this time on, He will no longer deal with the religious leaders, but will stick to His disciples only.
- Moses used the Hen illustration in Deut. 32:11.
- “Blessed is He who comes...” is a direct reference to the Triumphal entry. This shows Jesus’ complete rejection. He has not forgotten how they have treated Him.

- Jesus suffers because He must deliver the final decision to judge. There is now no turning back!
- Israel's judgment is now certain.

#### The Widow's Offering

- The amount that the woman put in was drastically less than the poorest rich person.
  - Rich People > Widow
- The woman gave all that she had and the rich gave a little out of their large wealth.
  - Rich People (10%) < Widow (100%)
- It is not about the actual amount: It is about giving everything to God!
- Mark ends with, "all she had to live on."
  - Rich Man Principle: Give God back some of the surplus from the money I have earned. (Contributory, Honorary)
  - Poor Woman Principle: Give God all that I had, so that He can provide for my continued life. (Sacrificial, Provisional)
- Luke – the Kingdom of God has only one price: the whole soul wholly devoted to God. That's the only thing He wants to work with.

#### Jesus Teaches on the Last Things

- Eschatology – From Greek: ἐσχατός + λόγος, meaning "the study of last things."
- Eschatology is concerned with the last things that must take place in the end.
- Systematic Eschatology is often deceptive in its presentation. It is often only concerned with issues of time and order of sequence.
- Biblical Eschatology is more concerned with the idea behind the warnings of the Bible concerning last events.
- We will only study eschatology from the Gospels here, not other New Testament sources.
- Remember, we are not talking about an order of events or even a time factor at all.
- We are looking for clues Jesus gives as to our attitude in the end times. The question of when the end times begin will be answered first.

#### Temple Destruction

- In these sections, Jesus is dealing with false Judaic doctrines, not laying down a series of end time events!
- Jews believed that the temple was everything. Their faith and security were in this temple.
- They did not believe that the Temple would ever become non-existent, that God would ever let that happen.
- The Temple was an object of misplaced hope for the Jews.
- Jesus sees this misplaced hope in His disciples, so He takes away their security in the Temple. He tells them there is no security except in Him.

#### Signs of the Times

- A Jewish belief was that the Messiah would come and extraordinary signs would accompany his arrival.
- The disciples ask Jesus about this, and He gives them a nonchalant answer.
- Jesus gives us a list of things that naturally happen and will happen throughout all history.
- Look at Mt. 24:6, 8, 14. It appears that not until the whole world hears of Jesus that the end will come.

#### About Vigilance in the End

- Mt 24:4, 10, 13, 33-34, 42, 44, 45
- Mk 13:5, 9, 13, 23, 33, 35, 37
- Lk 21:8, 19, 28
- Two Key Points: We must be alert and have faith
- Is it harder to have faith when we really need God to do a miracle or when everything is normal and the mundane life is all we experience?

#### Abomination of Desolation

- τό βδέλυγμα – “detestable, totally defiling, abomination, pollutant” (BDAG)
- της ἐρημώσεως – “state of being made uninhabitable, devastation, destruction, depopulation” (BDAG).
- Something detestable to God (breaking His holiness code, or law), a pollutant that makes the temple uninhabitable by His presence. God’s glory departs from the Temple.
- This is an action taken that repels God so that He must leave the Temple.
  - This has happened before (cf. the Prophets)
  - It has happened at times in Israel’s history
- Mt: in Daniel, all references are to the sacrifices and offerings being ended by possibly a military leader.
- There is a finality to this event. It is a military-oriented picture.
- All of the human inhabitants of Jerusalem will flee from the city.

#### False Christs and Prophets

- We are not to believe random stories about Christ’s appearance.
- When He comes, we will know!
- These false Christs happen throughout each generation’s history.
- Christ appears to be coming back “in the clouds.” This can mean that it will be very visible to the whole earth.

#### Coming of the Son of Man

- There is a specific time when Jesus will come back for His people and everyone will know it.
- If you’re still here, it hasn’t happened yet!
- We are of the least of those who should worry about His return!
- Could it be that God is purposefully vague so that we are always wondering in the back of our minds every time an earth shattering event happens in our lives that this could be the end, the last days?
- I think such an awareness is exactly what He is attempting to hardwire inside of His people. Don’t get too attached, because we are imperishable! Don’t get too complacent, because we are in a war.

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Thursday, March 28, 2013  
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Events	Passages
Anointing at Bethany	Mt 26:6-13, Mk 14:3-9, Lk 7:36-50, John 12:1-8
Preparation for Passover	Mt 26:17-20, Mk 14:12-17, Lk 22:7-14
Passover (and Lord’s Supper)	Mt 26:26-29, Mk 14:22-25, Lk 22:15-20
Judas’ Betrayal	Mt 26:14-16, Mk 14:10-11, Lk 22:3-6

Farewell Discourses	John 13-17
Gethsemane	Mt 26:36-46, Mk 14:32-42, Lk 22:39-46
Jesus Arrested	Mt 26:47-56, Mk 14:43-52, Lk 22:47-53

### Helpful Notes

#### Anointing at Bethany

- Can you see Jesus' suffering caused by His own disciples?
- Imagine if someone decided they would spend money on you because they found you so valuable, but your closest friend condemned them for their "waste."
- Jesus' suffering here is caused by disciples who are more concerned with the poor in the near absence of their Messiah.
- Jesus suffers because almost no one has a clue that this was a burial anointing.
- His own disciples miss out on the whole point.
- There is no judgment here, because Jesus has finished His words of judgment to the religious leaders.
- In Mt, Mk, and John,
  - Mary anointed Jesus for burial, hence the weeping
  - There was a misunderstanding of the disciples. Not realizing this as a burial, they were concerned for the poor. Jesus reminded them that they would not always have Him amongst them.

For more detailed information on the Anointing at Bethany, ask Pastor!

#### Preparation for Passover

- What went into the preparation?
  - The disciples would have to purchase bitter herbs, wine, a perfect lamb (and have it sacrificed in the temple), and then roast it whole.
- This probably took all of Thursday morning and afternoon.

#### Passover (and Lord's Supper)

- The background of the Lord's Supper is the Passover Meal. The Seder is roughly outlined below.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> (Salvation) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Judgment) Cups
  - Bitter herbs
  - The Meal of Unleavened Bread
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cup (Redemption)
  - Hallel (Psalm 118)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Cup (Glorification)
- Some textual issues arise:
  - Luke presents two cups instead of one
  - Matthew and Mark say they sang a hymn after the cup.
  - Matthew adds "for the forgiveness of sins." (Mt. 26:28)
- The Passover Seder offers some solutions:
  - Cup #1: Salvation – not mentioned in the gospels
  - Cup #2: Judgment – Luke 22:17
  - The dinner – the Bread
  - Cup #3: Redemption – Luke's third cup (22:20), Mt and Mk second cup
  - Hymn – Hallel (Psalm 118).
  - Cup #4: Glorification – Notice they did not drink this cup! There is a reason in Mt 26:29, Mk 14:25, Lk 22:18.

Judas' Betrayal

- This actually happened late Wednesday night after Jesus' Burial Anointing. But Jesus excuses Judas to collect His posse during the Passover Seder
- Matthew gives the amount of money (30 silver coins). This is the average price for a slave (Exod 21:32).
- They wanted to take Jesus when the crowds weren't around. Judas was their spy.
- Judas' weakness was money.
  - He held the money for the group.
  - He was incensed at the "waste" of the alabaster box.
  - He was known to be a thief (John 12:4-6)
  - He agrees to hand over Jesus when money is mentioned.
- Jesus suffers by the hand of a weak man who learned nothing from His sermons.

Gethsemane

- *Gethsemane* comes from Heb. for "oil press"
- "This Cup" – this is a reference to the judgment of God against sin.
  - *Sin results in existence without God*
  - *Jesus took on Himself the sin of the whole world!*
  - *We cannot understand what a burden this was. It was not death Christ wished to pass, but this judgment*
- Jesus knew God's will was the cross. This is not pleading to change anything at all. Jesus had accepted this before He came to earth.
- His praying three times shows the agonizing predicament of being the object of all God's wrath and judgment against the one thing He hates: sin

Jesus Arrested

- Matt adds "Friend, do what you came for." (v. 50)
- Mark adds the young man fleeing naked (believed to be John-Mark)
- Luke adds "are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (v. 48)
- John gives us a multitude of information (John 18:1-11):
  - Gethsemane was a regular meeting place (v. 2)
  - Both Romans and Jews were in the crowd (v. 3)
  - Jesus' answer caused them to fall back (v. 6)
  - Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant named Malchus (v. 10)
- Notice the difference in power! The crowd comes in large numbers with weapons. Jesus speaks and they all fall down.
- Why the kiss?
  - It was not to identify Jesus. Everyone knew who He was.
  - Some suggest it is a greeting from a student (or disciple) for a teacher.
  - Most say it was a peaceful move, probably intended to pacify the other disciples

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Friday, March 29, 2013  
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Events	Passages
Trial Before Sanhedrin	Mt 26:57-68, Mk 14:53-65
Peter's Denial	Mt 26:69-75, Mk 14:66-72, Lk 22:56-62, Jn 18:25-27

Judas' Suicide	Mt 27:3-10
Trial Before Pilate	Mt 27:1-2, 11-14; Mk 15:1-5, Lk 23:1-5, Jn 18:29-38
Trial Before Herod	Lk 23:6-12
Back to Pilate: Barabbas	Mt 27:15-23, Mk 15:6-14, Lk 23:13-23, Jn 18:39-40
Mockery and Torture	Mt 27:28-31, Mk 15:17-20, Jn 19:1-15
The Road to Golgotha	Mt 27:31-37, Mk 15:20-26, Lk 23:26-34, Jn 19:17-27
Crucifixion	Mt 27:38-44, Mk 15:27-32, Lk 23:35-43
Death/Burial	Mt 27:45-54, Mk 15:33-39, Lk 23:44-48, Jn 19:28-30

### Helpful Notes

#### Trial Before Sanhedrin

- There is a contrast between the false testimony of all the witnesses, and the true testimony of Jesus about Himself
- The charge that was deserving of death was blasphemy.
- Destruction of the temple was a close second.

#### Peter's Denial

- It seems that Peter watched the outcome and then denied Jesus.
- This shows Peter's great weakness; he was afraid of the opinions and power of men.
- The denials came gradually
  - He did not just denounce Jesus on the first one
  - By the third, Peter was vowing that he had not been with Jesus. It might have surprised even him what was coming from him
- Peter weeps because Jesus is right there for the last denial. Jesus sees him right as he has lost control.
- This probably did not help Jesus' suffering.

#### Judas' Suicide

- Was Judas remorseful? Look at these passages:
  - He gives the blood money back (Mt 27:5)
  - Luke said that "Satan entered him" before he betrayed Jesus
  - He hung himself (Mt 27:5)
- There are two different accounts of Judas' death (Mt 27:3-10, Acts 1:15-19)
- The chief priests were only using Judas to get to Jesus. When Judas comes to them with his spiritual claim of "betraying innocent blood," they do nothing for him.
- In part, the chief priests are at fault for Judas' suicide
- They did not put the money in the treasury; it was against the rules. So they spent it without putting it in the treasury first.

#### Trial Before Pilate

- Look at Pilate's amazement. Jesus did not answer any charge! He did not defend Himself, as a criminal would. He was silent! Sounds like innocence!
- The Sanhedrin's specific charges: Subverting the Jewish nation, opposing taxes to Caesar, claim to be king (Lk 23:2)
- It was infamously hard to govern Palestine. Pilate had a hard job. Jesus' case did not help. He was always trying to appease the Jews.

- He got more than he bargained for on this day.
- John gives us a longer picture of the event.
- Pilate vs. the Sanhedrin (John 18)
  - Pilate doesn't want to play the game (v. 31)
  - The Jews want an execution (v. 31). They are using Pilate for his political ability
  - Pilate hopes for an excuse to do what the Jews want (v. 37)
  - Jesus talks of truth and Pilate asks the question of our generation. "What is truth?"
  - Before Jesus can answer, Pilate turns and gives orders. He does not want to know what truth is at the risk of offending the Jews and putting his political career on ice.
- Pilate finds a way out – Herod.

#### Trial Before Herod

- Pilate and Herod are enemies. Pilate was passing off this Jesus problem to Herod.
- Herod was not looking for a serious trial. He wanted to see miracles. Jesus gave him nothing. When he was not entertained, he sent Jesus back to Pilate.
- The only good thing that happened was Pilate and Herod became friends.

#### Back to Pilate: Barabbas

- Pilate does not want to deal with an innocent Jesus but he wants to maintain the peace in Palestine.
- Pilate refers to Jesus in ways that incensed the crowd (Christ, King of Jews, etc.)
- Mt and Lk have the chief priests stirring up the crowd, using the crowd to get Jesus crucified
- Matthew tells of Pilate's wife, who warned him against crucifying Jesus.
- The crowd had a choice: an innocent man or a murderer and insurrectionist among them.
- Pilate asks multiple times. He does not want to be part of this. Remember this is on the Passover!
- Why choose murderer over innocent man? The crowd stands condemned.

#### Mockery and Torture

- Jn begins with Pilate's soldiers beating Him
- Pilate washed his hands of it because of the innocence of Jesus. He was splitting two worlds, the world of innocence and the world of politics.
- Mt 27:27 shows that Roman soldiers mocked Jesus with the purple robe and crown of thorns.
- Multiple blows to the head would cause immense bleeding, causing Him to be physically unrecognizable (Isa 53:2c-3).
- The blood would have poured over his face. He would be depleted greatly.

#### The Road to Golgotha

- The fact that they found a man to carry Jesus' cross shows the lack of ability to maintain composure of any sort.
- Wine mixed with gall is a drug to stop the pain. Jesus did not take it. He suffered the maximum for mankind.
- They divided up His garments (Mt). Being crucified naked was part of the shame of the culture.
- Crucifixion was done to the thieves of society. It was considered the lowliest death.
- Mk – the third hour is 9 AM. That's when He was crucified.
- Jn – the inscription (Jesus king of the Jews) was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

- Hebrew – native language of Palestine (Poss. Aramaic also)
- Latin – native language of Rome
- Greek – business language (Lingua Franca)
- The Jews wish this changed but Pilate says no.
- Jn tells of Jesus' taking care of His mother in death.
  - Mary (Jesus' mother) was there. Mary (Clopas' wife, Jesus' aunt), and Mary Magdalene (no relation to Jesus, contrary to the Da Vinci Code), and John were all there at the cross
  - Mary would now have no one to support her. Jesus was the oldest son and Joseph is more than likely deceased at this time.

#### Crucifixion

- This section is about the absolute humiliation of Christ.
- Even the thieves (guilty) were mocking Him (innocent). This is the ultimate injustice!
- Both the crowd and the religious leaders were having a hay day.
- The two thieves are said to be hurling insults at Him and then one is kind to Him. Remember that the crucifixion was an all day event. These are pictures of different times in the day.

#### Death

- The sixth hour (Noon), when it is brightest in the day, total darkness!
- Why did Jesus say, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
  - This is a quote of the opening verse of Psalm 22
  - God had to turn His back on sin, and so Jesus truly felt alone at this moment of darkness. He became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21)
- The two ideas are one in the same. Read Psalm 22 with the background of Jesus becoming sin!
- "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani is Aramaic and sound like Elijah's name.
- Jesus said, "It is finished," meaning that salvation was now available to mankind.
- Look at the results of Jesus' death
  - Tombs of saints were opened
  - The Temple veil between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was torn in two, showing that all of mankind now has access to God's presence
  - An earthquake
  - The Centurion: "Surely this was the Son of God!"
- The guards made sure crucifixion victims were dead by breaking their legs. This would guarantee that they could no longer breath.
- When they got to Jesus, they knew He had already died because water and blood flowed from His side. His unbroken bones fulfill a prophecy about the Messiah (Jn 19:36 cf. Ex 12:46, Num 9:12, Ps 34:20).

#### Burial

- The Characters involved
  - Joseph of Arimathea
    - Mt – a disciple of Jesus
    - Mk – a prominent member of the Council
    - Lk – a member of the Council, who hadn't consented to Jesus' rulings
    - Jn – a secret disciple of Jesus
  - Nicodemus (Jn 19:39)

- The Grave
  - Mt, Mk, Lk – owned by Joseph
  - Jn – simply a nearby tomb in a garden

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Saturday, March 30, 2013  
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Events	Passages
Where are the Disciples?	
Jesus Preaches to Spirits in Prison	1 Peter 3:18-22
Guard at the Tomb	
Helpful Notes	
<p>Where are the Disciples?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Friday night into Sunday morning, where are the disciples?</li> <li>• They are locked in their upper room.</li> <li>• What does this say about early Christianity’s “strong start”?</li> <li>• This can be used for apologetic proof that even the disciples did not believe Jesus would be resurrected.</li> <li>• Also notice the guard at the tomb. No one would have stolen a body.</li> </ul> <p>Jesus Preaches to Spirits in Prison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some have suggested that Peter shows us Jesus preaching while He is dead.</li> <li>• One possible interpretation of this passage is that Jesus went to Sheol, where all went at the point of death.</li> <li>• While in Sheol, He preached about Himself as the promised Messiah of God.</li> <li>• Those who were righteous would be free to join Jesus in Heaven with the Father.</li> </ul> <p>Pilate Placed a Guard at the tomb to keep either the disciples or any of the Jews from stealing the body.</p>	

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Sunday, March 31, 2013  
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Events	Passages
Resurrection	Mt 28:1-8, Mk 16:1-8, Lk 24:1-12, Jn 20:1-13
The Guard’s Report	Mt 28:11-15
Emmaus	Mk. 16:12-13, Lk. 24:13-35
Disciples (Thomas Absent)	Lk. 24:36-43, Jn 20:19-23
Helpful Notes	
<p>Resurrection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The very first report of Christ’s resurrection!</li> <li>• The first day of the Jewish work week is Sunday (Saturday Sabbath)</li> <li>• Luke has more than one angel.</li> <li>• Some of the details of these witnesses are different           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– How many women at the tomb</li> <li>– How many angels</li> </ul> </li> <li>• But the point of the witnesses is not details but that the event happened</li> </ul>	

- Remember a writer's theology factors into each part of his gospel story
- The "sightings" of Jesus or His appearances are so numerous, Paul refers to them as the basis for the fact of Jesus' resurrection (1 Cor 15:3-8).
- The gospel writers also take great care to show how Jesus was seen by many people after His resurrection.
- His appearance in the Garden (Sunday Morning – Mt 28:9-10, Mk 16:9-11, Lk 24:10-11, Jn 20:14-18
  - Mt – the women touch Jesus' feet
  - Jn – Mary doesn't seem to recognize Jesus by appearance.
  - Jn – Jesus won't allow Mary to touch Him because He hasn't gone to the Father yet.
- The disciples don't believe the women so Jesus has to show up Himself!
  - The first time Thomas is absent
    - Sunday evening
    - We see Jesus eating, but also passing through the locked door (Lk and Jn)
  - The Second time Thomas is present
    - Eight days later
    - Almost a personal revelation just for Thomas (Jesus made a house call)
- Still more appearances
  - The two disciples on the Road to Emmaus
  - The eleven at the table (Mk 16:14-18)
  - The eleven on a mountain in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20)
  - By the sea of Tiberius (Jn 21:1-14)
- Jesus' appearances help with one issue:
  - No one can say the disciples were delusional, that they wanted to see Jesus so badly that some psychological projection occurred.
  - There was no group dream, vision or consciousness among the disciples (everyone at once imagining Him)

#### The Guard's Report

- The body snatcher theory is very popular (the disciples stole the body)
- It was originally to keep the jailers from being killed for not fulfilling their duty at the tomb
- The problem:
  - The disciples were locked in the upper room the whole time, afraid to even step out of that room.
  - The disciples did not believe the women about Jesus' resurrection
- Besides the body snatcher theory and the psychology suggestion, some suggest a swoon theory (Jesus didn't really die)
  - Blood and water flowed (The Romans knew when someone was dead or not. This was their profession)
  - Jesus probably lost too much blood to revive in three days
  - His burial was done in the typical fashion – no way he could get out of the clothes, let alone remove the stone all by Himself when He was that weak

#### Emmaus

- These disciples appear to be part of the larger amount of disciples that would go to hear Jesus teach and preach.

- As they are going, they do not recognize Jesus. One reason for this may be the same as with the women at the tomb, that Jesus has not yet returned to His Father. Another might be that somehow with His new body, Jesus can disguise Himself.
- When they break bread together, a symbolic use for having communion throughout Acts, they recognize Jesus.

#### Disciples (Thomas Absent)

- As the disciples huddled afraid in the Upper Room, Jesus came to them, able to walk through the locked door.
- The Jews would allow for the resurrection of the spirit, but did not believe in resurrection of the body. This is why Jesus shows them He can eat food. Remember, He has just walked through a door, so He proves He is not just a spirit.
- Jesus breathes on them the Holy Spirit as part of their commissioning to do His will and teach His ways.

#### Why Resurrection Matters So Much

- The “new body” referred to in the NT flows from the fact of the resurrection.
- Bodies seem to be important to God, not just spirit, or He wouldn’t have worried about making new bodies.
- Resurrection shows the final foe being conquered. Jesus conquered Satan at the cross and death at the resurrection.