

ALL TO JESUS

LENTEN STUDY 2026



St. Andrew's
Community Church

A GLOBAL METHODIST CONGREGATION

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All to Jesus

"All to Jesus, I surrender. All to Him I freely give." The opening lyrics of an old hymn were written by Judson W. Van DeVenter (1896). In my memory I hear the melody playing softly on a piano during an invitation to come to the altar. Maybe it was an invitation to surrender my life and will to Jesus or at least to reconnect my life to Him when I strayed.

Last year when reading through the gospels, I began to notice what things were **GIVEN TO JESUS** in the days leading to His passion. Some gifts were tangible to meet a need: a donkey for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem or a room to celebrate Passover. Some gifts were devotional in nature: a woman anointing His feet with perfume. And some were meant to cause pain: grief from the religious leaders or Judas' betrayal with a kiss.

In examination of our faith we can ask "What do I give Jesus?" Sometimes I give grief and other times I think He takes joy in my life. Sometimes I give water, food and clothes to those in need because I give to Jesus. He is the only One to Whom I give worship. During this Lenten season, let's consider how we can **GIVE IT ALL TO JESUS.**

If you are not familiar with Lent, it is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and leads up to Easter. It's a time of **REPENTANCE, PRAYER** and **PREPARATION** where some followers of Jesus choose to **FAST** or give up something they enjoy to better focus that time, energy or money on God. Others choose to take on a new habit or discipline that helps them grow in their faith. Whichever you choose, our prayer is that we will all **GROW IN OUR FAITH** together during this season of Lent as we intentionally take time for reflection and self-examination.

We encourage you to go through this study at **YOUR OWN PACE**. No need to rush. Each week will have less readings than there are days. So if you miss a day, no worries, you will have time to catch up. Take your time and invite the **HOLY SPIRIT** to do a work in you and through you as we go through this study together.

Blessings,



Rev. DA Bennett
Lead Pastor

**Special thanks to Kim Heath for proofreading and to pastors who are part of our community of faith who have written these devotions. In addition to Pastor Josh and Pastor Bonny, please thank Rev. Cali Eck, Rev. Chris Tiger and Rev. Danny Wayman for their contributions!*

Week 1 - Wednesday, February 18

Woman gives perfume

Ash Wednesday – All to Jesus

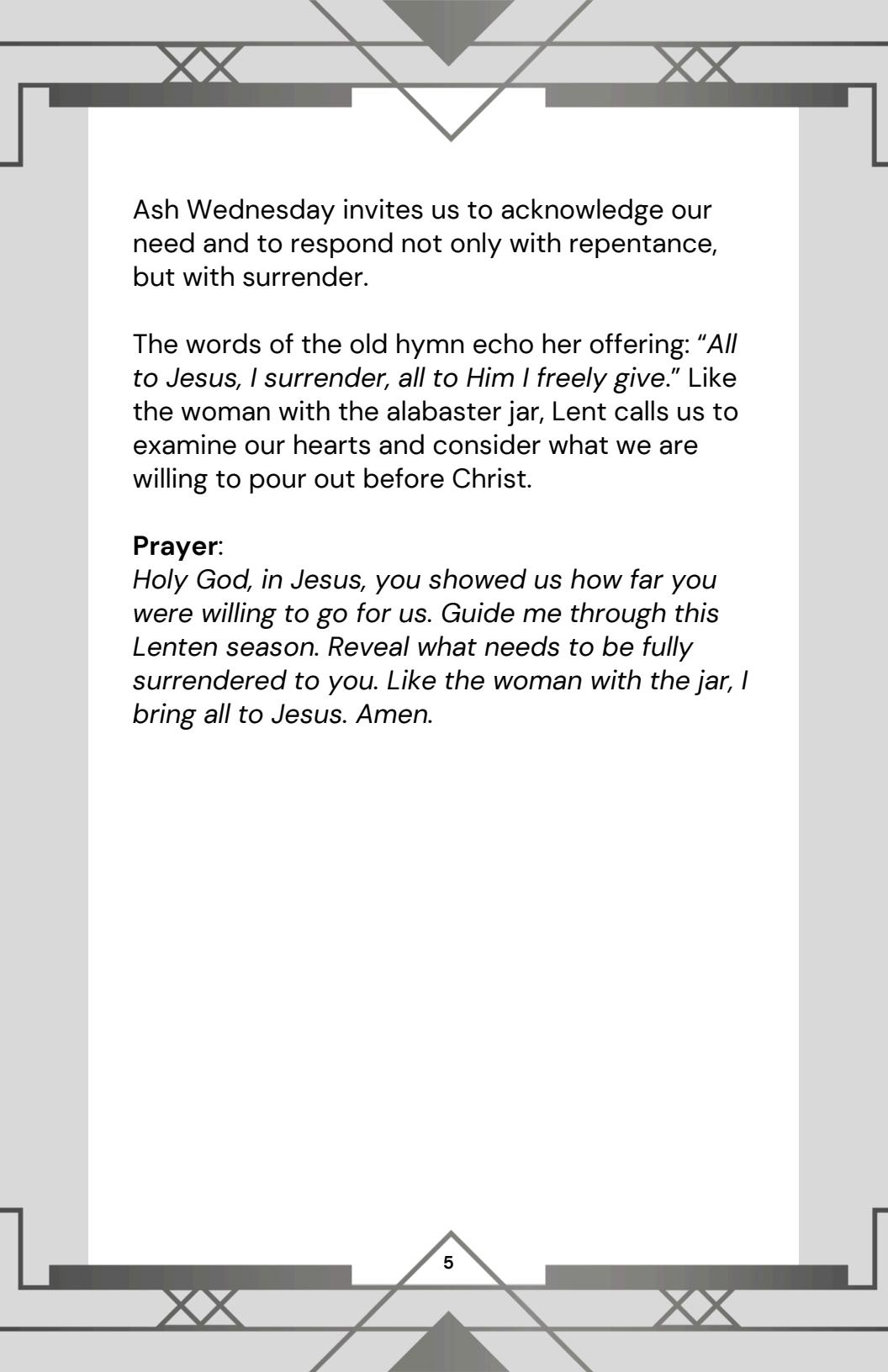
Read Matthew 26:6–13

Today, we begin the season of Lent. These forty days, excluding Sundays, invite us to pause, take an honest look at our relationship with Jesus, and refocus our hearts on what truly matters.

Ash Wednesday opens this season by calling us to remember who we are. We are dust, marked by sin, in need of a Savior. The ashes are not meant to shame us, but to awaken us, to tune our hearts to our deep need for God and His grace.

In Matthew's Gospel, a woman approaches Jesus carrying a jar of expensive perfume. Without hesitation, she pours it out in an act of extravagant devotion. Those watching criticize her, calling it wasteful. But Jesus sees differently. It is beautiful to Him. She gives everything, holding nothing back.

Her act confronts us with a question during Lent: What does it mean for me to give all to Jesus?



Ash Wednesday invites us to acknowledge our need and to respond not only with repentance, but with surrender.

The words of the old hymn echo her offering: *"All to Jesus, I surrender, all to Him I freely give."* Like the woman with the alabaster jar, Lent calls us to examine our hearts and consider what we are willing to pour out before Christ.

Prayer:

Holy God, in Jesus, you showed us how far you were willing to go for us. Guide me through this Lenten season. Reveal what needs to be fully surrendered to you. Like the woman with the jar, I bring all to Jesus. Amen.

Week 1 - Thursday, February 19

All to Jesus without reservation

Read Mark 14:3–9

This passage tells the same story as yesterday with a little variance. The woman breaks open the jar before pouring out the perfume. Once broken, the fragrance fills the room, and the criticisms come. The gift could have been used sparingly, but instead it is poured out completely.

Jesus defends her, telling them that “she did what she could.” That phrase sticks out to me. God doesn’t ask us to give what we don’t have. When we offer ourselves freely to God, even if others criticize and do not understand, it is received as worship.

Lent invites us to examine how we follow Jesus and consider what we hold on to. We often want to follow Jesus as long as there isn’t much risk involved. What we see in this passage is that worship and devotion to God require courage. Courage to behave in ways others will not understand. Courage to let go of what we value.

Reflection:

To what do I hold tightly? How can I be courageous in my worship and service to God? Am I willing not to hold back?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I know that I tend to hold back. Help me examine my heart and have the courage to follow you, no matter what others think. Guide me so that I “do what I can” freely without hesitation. I worship you and know that whatever I give you is never wasted. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Week 1 - Friday, February 20

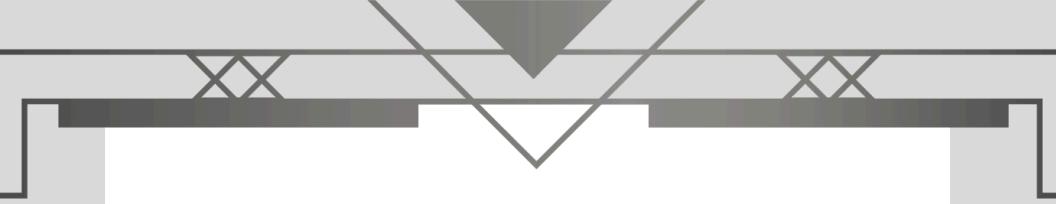
All to Jesus – Poured Out

Read John 12:1-8

In today's Scripture, we encounter another anointing of Jesus with expensive perfume—one that is deeply personal. Mary kneels at Jesus' feet, pours out the perfume, and wipes His feet with her hair. The moment is not ultimately about the perfume but about Jesus Himself.

Mary's act is one of humility and love. She expresses her devotion freely, yet her action points beyond her worship to what it represents. Jesus receives her offering because He knows what lies ahead. Soon, He will kneel and wash the feet of His disciples. Soon, He will pour out His life for the sake of all humanity. What Mary does out of love for Jesus, Jesus will soon do out of His great love for us.

When Judas objects, Jesus defends Mary. She understands that deep love always carries a cost. Her anointing becomes a sign of the love of God—a love that will cost Jesus everything as He is poured out for the world.



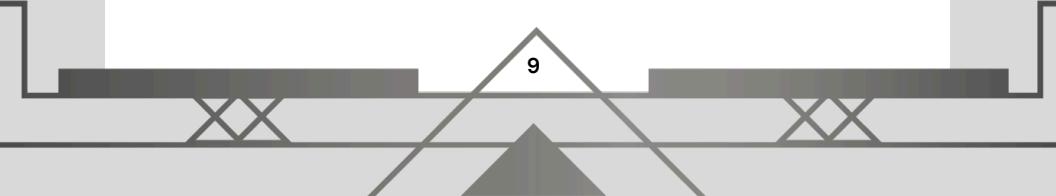
Lent draws us closer to the cross, inviting us to fix our eyes on Jesus and His suffering. Before we can pour ourselves out for Him, we must first receive the depth of love He has poured out for us. Our surrender is always a response to His grace.

Reflection:

In what ways is Jesus inviting me to surrender all to Him?

Prayer:

Holy God, as Jesus knelt in humility and gave Himself for my salvation, help me to follow Him with gratitude and trust. Guide me through this Lenten season, that my life may reflect Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week 2 - Monday, February 23

Religious Leaders Give Grief

Authority

Matthew 21:23b – *By what authority are you doing these things?*

The religious leaders ask Jesus, “Where does your authority come from?” How do you answer that question about yourself? Is it your ability or education? Your ancestors? Your work?

As a follower of Jesus Christ your authority comes from your baptism. We are marked by God as belonging. We are a member of God’s family, a fellow heir with Christ; we are ministers of the good news of God’s love. We receive this baptism by God’s grace. We do not finally know enough, get smart enough or good enough. Baptism is God’s mighty acts of salvation.

God’s authority seeks you and calls you by name. The authority of Jesus Christ comes from his Heavenly Father. Our authority comes from God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Reflection:

Spend a few moments reflecting on your identity as a minister. In what ways might you be able to live that identity more meaningfully during this season of Lent?

Prayer:

The following prayer is adapted from Martin Luther's Sacristy Prayer. Please join with many others as we pray together:

Lord God, You have appointed me as a minister in Your Church, but you see how unsuited I am to meet so great and difficult a task. If I had lacked Your help, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore, I call upon You: I wish to devote my mouth and my heart to you; I shall teach the people. I myself will learn and ponder diligently upon Your Word. Use me as Your instrument — but do not forsake me, for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily wreck it all. Amen.

Week 2 - Tuesday, February 24

Questions and Answers

Matthew 21:27b – *Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.*

Jesus did not answer every question. He knows the answers. He also knows the heart of the people asking the questions. The religious leaders searched for a reason to dismiss Jesus as a fraud. Jesus wanted them to trust and obey God, so he reminds them of their response to John the Baptist. They refused to answer.

When I was young, I thought I needed to answer every question. My insecurity caused me to give answers that got in the way of God. Maybe you are like that? We are afraid of telling our friends about Jesus Christ because we know we do not have all the answers.

Even if we do know the answers, it may be more important the person wrestles with the questions. Knowing the answers does not make us competent ministers. Competence is trusting Jesus Christ and helping people ask better questions. We do not need answers. We need Jesus.

Reflection:

Spend a few moments reflecting on the unanswered questions you may have. You can even use the space below to write them out. In what ways can you better trust Jesus in these unanswered questions?

Prayer:

Gracious God, forgive my desire to appear as knowing all the answers. Heal my insecurities. Give me the gift of faith especially when I face questions I cannot answer. Give me the patience to not run ahead of you. Grasp me in your love so I may humbly walk with you, trusting you for every step. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Week 2 - Wednesday, February 25

Suffering

The Religious leaders give Jesus a hard time and that will not be the end of it. They are going to make Him suffer. Jesus did not want to suffer, but He wanted to accomplish His Father's purpose. He humbled himself, taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient even to death on a cross.

You may be suffering right now. The loss of a loved one. The crushing of a dream. Even if it is not you, it may be a person next to you who is suffering. They may ask you, "why?" They, nor you, need a logical argument to answer that question. Instead, we need a person who loves us and sits with us through our pain.

God so loved the world that God did not send a logical argument. Instead, God sent God's Son to become flesh among us. Jesus suffers with us. We are not alone. We are loved. When we suffer we can trust God provides for us.

Reflection:

Spend a few moments considering who in your life might be suffering right now and in what ways you could better come alongside them and sit with them through their pain.

Prayer:

Gracious, loving God, we praise your wisdom and compassion for us, your children. We do not desire suffering, but when we suffer we hold on to You, your presence with us and your people. Continue to teach us to love one another as you have loved us. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

*If you are wanting logical reasoning, CS Lewis's book **The Problem of Pain** is excellent and recommended. You can scan the QR code below to be directed to it on Amazon.



Week 2 - Thursday, February 26

Which of the Two are You?

Matthew 21:31a – *Which of the two did what his father wanted?*

One of the sons says yes to his father and then does not obey. The other says no, and then does as his father asks. Jesus uses this parable to talk about the religious people of his day and it also applies to us.

Religion can easily get between God and us. We can do the stuff that makes us appear like we are following God while we never actually follow. Religion is humanity reaching up to God. Following Jesus is accepting God reaching down to us. We do not have the ability to hold on to God, but we can have the humility to allow God to hold on to us.

The sinners then and now have the ability to trust in God by confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness. Religious folk trust in their own righteousness. Which one are you? You may think it is your job to grab hold of God. Stop it! Let God hold on to you.

Reflection:

Spend a few moments reflecting on which one of the two you are in the parable. Have you ever struggled with doing the things that make you appear to follow God while never actually following? In what ways can you more fully place your trust in Jesus and follow Him more closely?

Prayer:

Almighty and Incarnate God, we adore your love for us in coming down to earth so we may be lifted to life eternal with you. Forgive our tendency to be religious rather than trust in You. Pour Your Holy Spirit into our lives so we may receive your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Week 2 - Friday, February 27

Repent and Believe

Matthew 21:32b – *And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.*

It seems impossible people saw Jesus, witnessed the miracles of His life, death and resurrection and still did not repent and believe. The religious leaders refused the opportunity to trust in God. Today, it should be impossible for us not to repent and believe, and yet some do.

We may seem like we are on the right path doing the religious stuff. We may imagine we have to cover up our failures so no one will know we are not whom we should be. Repentance is realizing we are on the wrong path. We need to head in a new direction. We need to follow Jesus, not our understanding of religion.

“Believing” is thinking something is true, but it is also much more than just that. Believing in God means to trust in Jesus Christ alone. We trust Jesus for our forgiveness, our purpose and our meaning. God moves into our lives and beings in ways we cannot fully understand. We simply receive. God transforms us into the image of

Jesus Christ. That mysterious union between God and God's Church:

*The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.*

*"The Church's One Foundation" – hymn written by S.J. Stone in 1866

Reflection:

Spend a few moments reflecting on the words **repent** and **believe**. Is there anything you feel you should repent of today? Have you fully trusted Jesus for your forgiveness, purpose and meaning?

Week 3 - Monday, March 2

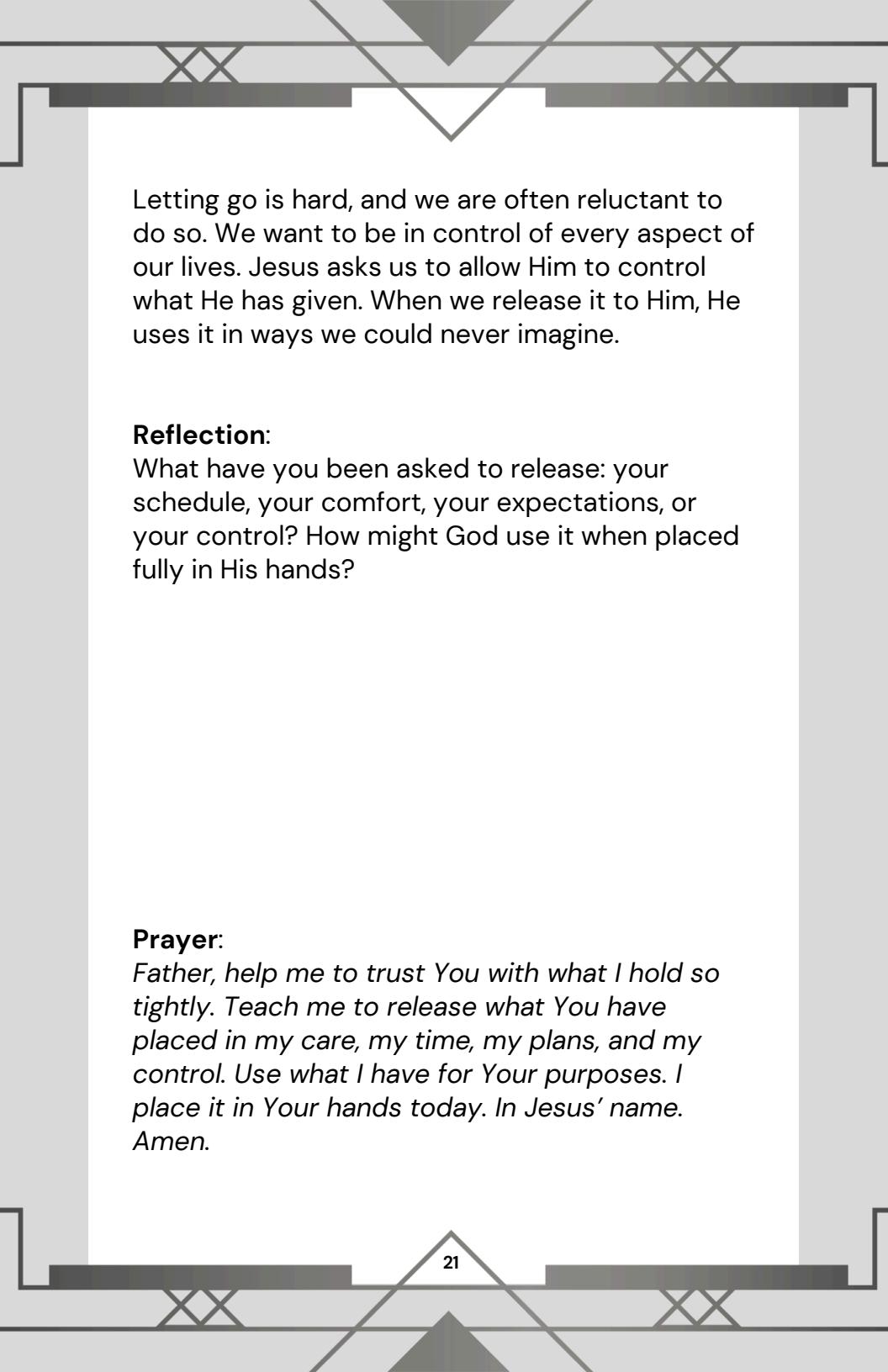
Jesus Given a Donkey

A borrowed animal

Matthew 21:2–3 – “Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

As Jesus prepares to enter Jerusalem, He sends His disciples to borrow a donkey, an ordinary animal, owned by ordinary people, going about an ordinary day. Jesus says, “The Lord needs them, and He will send them right away.” Nothing suggests that the owners were consulted in advance. They are simply asked to release what they have, trusting that it belongs to the Lord in the first place.

This moment reminds us that much of God’s work happens through what is willingly released, not what is impressively displayed. The donkey is not extraordinary, but it becomes part of an extraordinary moment because it is surrendered. In God’s hands, the simple becomes sacred.



Letting go is hard, and we are often reluctant to do so. We want to be in control of every aspect of our lives. Jesus asks us to allow Him to control what He has given. When we release it to Him, He uses it in ways we could never imagine.

Reflection:

What have you been asked to release: your schedule, your comfort, your expectations, or your control? How might God use it when placed fully in His hands?

Prayer:

Father, help me to trust You with what I hold so tightly. Teach me to release what You have placed in my care, my time, my plans, and my control. Use what I have for Your purposes. I place it in Your hands today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 3 - Tuesday, March 3

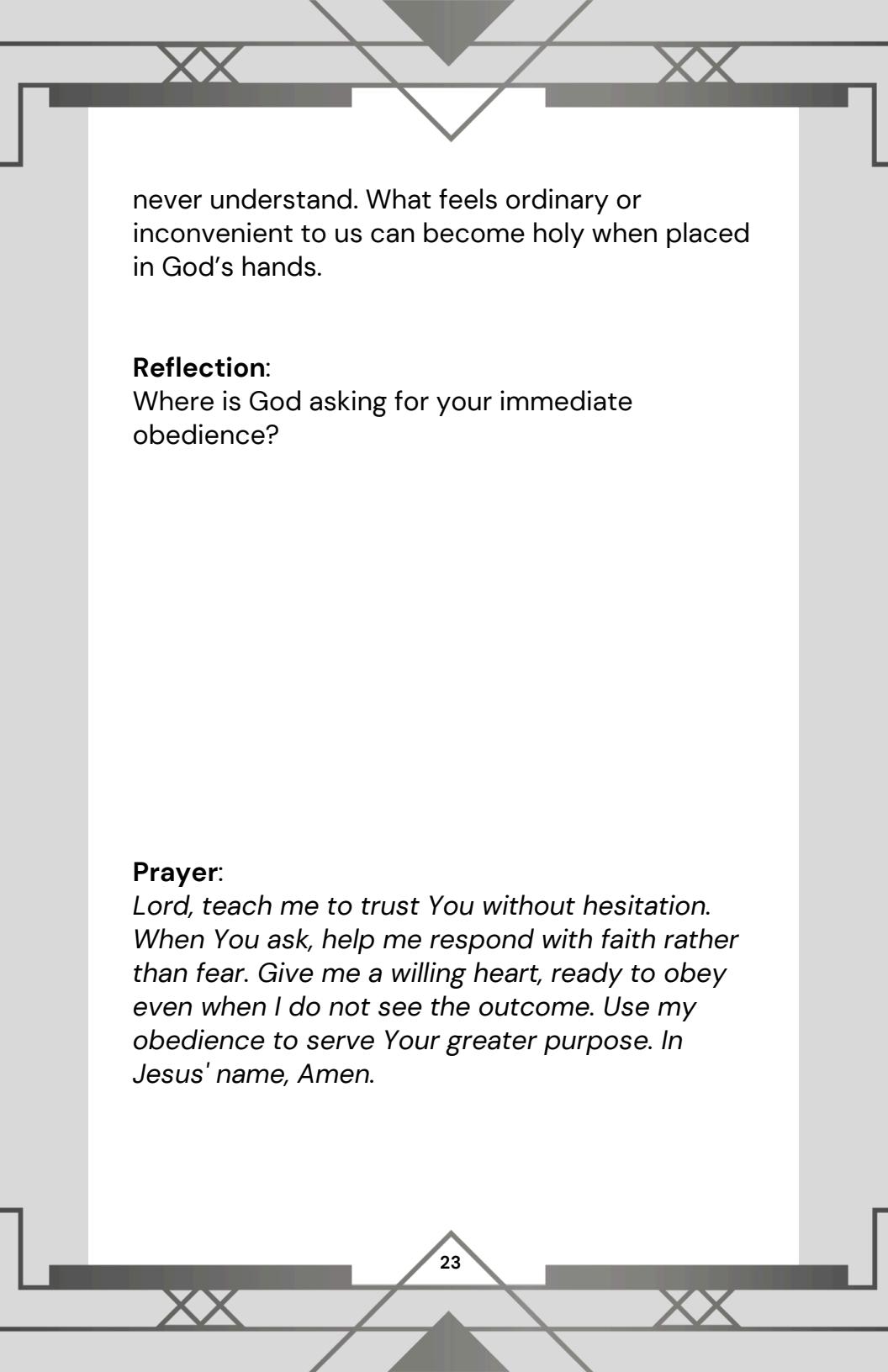
Simple Obedience

Luke 19:34 – *And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.”*

When the owners of the donkey question the disciples, the answer is simple: “The Lord needs it.” That is all it takes. There is no argument, no hesitation, no demand for explanation. Luke tells us the donkey is released, and the moment moves on. Quiet, immediate obedience becomes part of God’s unfolding plan.

This stands in contrast to how we often respond to God. We want details. We ask why, how long, and what if? Yet obedience does not always come with full understanding. Sometimes it comes with trust. The owners never see the crowds, the palm branches, or the shouts of Hosanna. They simply believe that if the Lord needs it, that is enough.

Their obedience may seem small, but it carries the King into Jerusalem. Lent invites us into that same posture, listening for God’s voice and responding without delay. Simple obedience often opens the door to holy moments we may



never understand. What feels ordinary or inconvenient to us can become holy when placed in God's hands.

Reflection:

Where is God asking for your immediate obedience?

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to trust You without hesitation. When You ask, help me respond with faith rather than fear. Give me a willing heart, ready to obey even when I do not see the outcome. Use my obedience to serve Your greater purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 3 - Wednesday, March 4

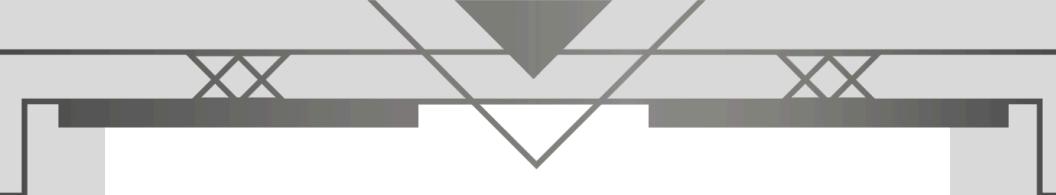
Humble Kingship

Zechariah 9:9 – Rejoice, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.

Zechariah describes a king who defies every expectation: “Your king comes to you... humble and riding on a donkey.” This is not the image of power the world anticipates. Kings usually arrive with force and spectacle, but God’s King comes gently, choosing humility over dominance.

Jesus fulfills this prophecy by showing us what true power looks like. His authority is not rooted in control, but in love. He does not conquer by violence, but by laying down His life. The humility of Jesus is not weakness—it is the very means by which God brings salvation and peace.

We often want Jesus to act according to our expectations. We look for quick solutions, dramatic victories, or unmistakable displays of strength. Yet Jesus frequently comes quietly, inviting us to trust, to surrender, and to follow Him



on a path shaped by sacrifice. When He does not meet our expectations, He invites us to let Him redefine them.

Lent is a season to release our assumptions about how God should work and to receive Christ as He truly is: the humble King who comes for our hearts.

Reflection:

Do you want Jesus to meet your expectations, or to transform them?

Prayer:

Jesus, humble King, help me to welcome You as You are. Free me from my need for control and teach me to trust Your way of humility and love. Shape my heart to follow You faithfully. Amen.

Week 3 - Thursday, March 5

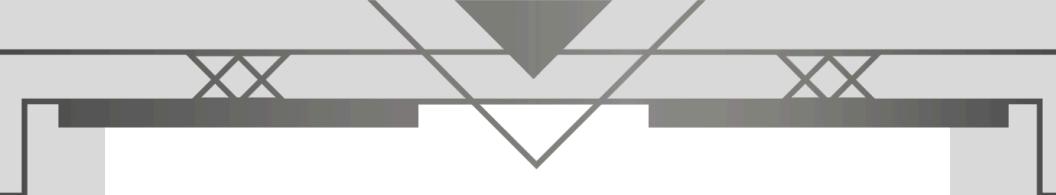
Making a way for the King

Matthew 21:8 – Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

This passage of Scripture is so familiar that we often overlook the amazing thing that happens with the crowd: “They spread their cloaks on the road.” To a first-century person, a cloak was not just an accessory or a decoration; it was a valuable, practical garment used for warmth and protection. Putting them on the ground meant placing what mattered to them under Jesus’ feet. It was an act of honor, surrender, and trust.

The people recognized that welcoming the King required more than words. It required action. By laying down their cloaks, they made space for Jesus to pass through.

This passage of Scripture invites us to examine our own response to Christ. We must ask ourselves about our attitudes, habits, and things that we cling to tightly. Making way for Jesus often means laying something down: pride,



control, busyness, fear, or expectations that keep us from fully following Him.

Lent calls us to prepare the road of our hearts. As we lay things down, we discover that surrender is not loss, but freedom.

Reflection:

Am I holding on to anything that may be crowding out space for Jesus?

Prayer:

Holy God, show me what I need to surrender. Help me give you what I hold on to and make room for Your presence in my life. Lead me to humbly trust where you lead. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 3 - Friday, March 6

Obedience prepares the path

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

This passage is familiar and reminds us that the life of faith is a life of surrender and trust.

Obedience is easier when we acknowledge that God sees what we cannot and knows the best way forward, even when the path is unclear to us.

I am a planner, and I try to manage outcomes because it makes me feel secure in my plans. Yet Scripture invites us to give that need for control to God. Trusting God does not mean flying by the seat of our pants; it means placing our plans under God's authority. When we choose obedience, God promises to direct our paths.

Lent is a season of surrender. It calls us to open our hands and hearts and lean fully into God's guidance. As we trust instead of control, we discover that God will faithfully prepare the road ahead.

Reflection:

Where is God inviting you to trust Him rather than rely on your own understanding?

Prayer:

Holy God, teach me to trust and obey You more completely. It is easy to want to control everything. Guide me and direct my path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 4 - Monday, March 9

Jesus Given a Room

Read Mark 14:12-16

As the time for Passover nears, the disciples of Jesus ask him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" This is a practical question. Passover is one of the major feast days prescribed in the Law of Moses. Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Homeowners in Jerusalem allowed travelers to use a room in their homes so that these religious pilgrims could have a place to celebrate Passover together. Jesus and his twelve disciples would need a large room for Passover. Fortunately, during Passover people did not have to pay for a room. They were given a room to use for Passover.

But where would Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Passover meal? Jesus gave two of his disciples specific instructions, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him." A man carrying a jar of water would stand out, because it was usually women

who would go to the well to get water for the day. When the man entered the house, the disciples were instructed to say, "The Teacher asks, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples.' The disciples found it just as Jesus had said and they were shown a large room upstairs, furnished and ready.

Reflection:

This act of hospitality blessed Jesus and his disciples. When have you been blessed by such hospitality? How might you bless someone else with this kind of hospitality?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, someone provided a room for you to use for Passover. Not only was the space available, but it was also furnished and ready! May I seek to provide hospitality to others that goes above and beyond what may be expected. In your gracious name I pray. Amen.

Week 4 - Tuesday, March 10

Jesus given a room to eat the Passover meal

Read Luke 22:7-13

Luke identifies Peter and John as the two disciples who went into Jerusalem to find a room where they could eat the Passover meal. Jesus told them to follow a man carrying a jar of water. He would take them to the place they would celebrate Passover.

They then prepared for the Passover meal. The main item was the Passover lamb which was sacrificed on that day. This was a reminder that on the day of the Exodus from Egypt that their ancestors had sacrificed a lamb so that the angel of death would pass over their home. This was a powerful reminder of their deliverance from Egypt.

Other items in the Passover meal include:

- Unleavened bread to remind them that they had eaten in haste.
- A bowl of salt water to remind them of their tears and the waters of the Red Sea.
- Bitter herbs to remind them of the bitterness of slavery.

- A mixture of fruits and nuts to remind them of the bricks they had made in Egypt.
- Wine which they would drink at different stages of the meal to remind them of God's promises.

Reflection:

Peter and John would make these preparations for the Passover meal for Jesus. How do you prepare for special holy days such as Christmas and Easter? How do these preparations serve as reminders of what God has done for you?

Prayer:

God, you know that as we prepare for holy days that these preparations are important ways to help us be ready. Help me to prepare for Easter through these devotions so that I can truly appreciate all that your Son and our Savior did. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Week 4 - Wednesday, March 11

Jesus is given a room and serves His disciples

Read John 13:1-15

It was customary in Jesus' day that when you entered a home your sandals would be taken off and a servant would wash your feet. When the disciples enter the Upper Room no one took on the role of a servant. Then during supper Jesus "got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him."

His disciples were stunned! Peter protests that Jesus will not wash his feet. But Jesus convinces him to have his feet washed, promising him that he would understand later. When he completes the servant's task he makes his point, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, has washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example."

In Luke 22:24-27 it says that a dispute had risen among them as to who should be regarded as the greatest. Jesus speaks up, "For who is greater, the

one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

Reflection:

Jesus gives us a great example of serving others. When have you been served by someone you didn't expect to serve you? Were you embarrassed? Humbled? Grateful?

Prayer:

Our Humble Savior, you gave us an example of serving that we can never forget. Help me to not be so proud that I will not serve others. May your example of humbly washing your disciples' feet help me to be a servant today and always. I pray this in the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Week 4 - Thursday, March 12

Jesus is given a room and establishes the Lord's Supper

Read Mark 14:22-25

While they were eating the Passover meal Jesus takes two of the items at the table and establishes a new tradition for his disciples. He takes bread and tells them, "This is my body." He took the cup of wine and said, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many."

Since then, Jesus' disciples have called this the Lord's Supper. Four words are used to describe what Jesus did to the bread: blessed, broke, gave, and gave thanks. Jesus took bread and he blessed the bread. The bread was no longer common, but holy. He broke the bread as a reminder that his body would be broken. He gave the bread to his disciples just as he would give his own body as a sacrifice. He gave thanks to God for this gift of God for the people of God.

When Paul shares about the Lord's Supper in **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** he reminds the church to "Do this in remembrance of me." And he concludes, "For as often as you eat this bread

and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Reflection:

The disciples of Jesus didn't forget what Jesus said and did. They have passed the Lord's Supper to future generations. We too "do this in remembrance" of Jesus. When was the last time you remembered, really remembered that Jesus died for you? How does the Lord's Supper help us to remember what Jesus did for us?

Prayer:

Our Savior, you knew that your people need to remember that you gave your body and your blood for our salvation. You gave us tangible things to touch and eat – the bread and the cup – so we may never forget. Help me to really appreciate your loving sacrifice. By your grace I am forgiven. In Jesus' name I remember and pray. Amen.

Week 4 - Friday, March 13

Jesus is given a room and gives a new commandment

Read John 13:34-35

As Jesus participates in his last Passover meal, he knows that “the hour had come” (**John 13:1**). There was so much he needed to tell his disciples! While the other gospels all tell us about Jesus with his disciples in the Upper Room, the gospel of John spends five chapters (**John 13-17**) on what Jesus told the disciples in the Upper Room.

One thing which could be overlooked but is really important is the new commandment Jesus gives his disciples. He says, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.” When reading that you may think, “What makes that a new commandment?” It seems like you have heard that before. And then Jesus clarifies this, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Loving one another like Jesus loves you seems like a lot to ask! But Jesus didn’t ask this of us – he commands us! However, if we obey this command something amazing happens – *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.”*

Reflection:

When you love others like Jesus loves you then everyone knows you are a disciple of Jesus. Think for a moment. How do you know someone is a disciple of Jesus? And how would someone know you are a disciple of Jesus? Can it be that they have experienced love like Jesus' love in you?

Prayer:

Our Loving Friend, you love us even when we are never worthy of such love. You command us to love one another like you love us. Help me to love like you! May others see and experience this love and know that I am your disciple. In the loving embrace of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Week 5 - Monday, March 16

Judas Gives Jesus a Kiss

When Satan entered Judas

Read Luke 22:1-6

When you think of betrayal it doesn't take long to think of Judas betraying Jesus. A symbol of that betrayal is when Judas gives Jesus a kiss so that the others with him would know whom to arrest. However, the process of betrayal began earlier when Judas met with the chief priests. They were already looking for a way to put Jesus to death. The way to do this came when one of Jesus' twelve disciples came to them wanting to betray Jesus. The scripture says, "they were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money." Then Judas "began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present."

The question that many have asked is why Judas would betray Jesus? Some thought that Judas did it for the money. Others thought that Judas was frustrated with Jesus for not moving more quickly to wage a rebellion against Rome and that this betrayal would force Jesus to start the rebellion now. Luke tells us that the devil made

Judas do it. He says that "Satan entered Judas." This sounds more serious than just a temptation, or being greedy, or trying to force Jesus to lead a rebellion. SATAN ENTERS JUDAS! The betrayal of Jesus goes beyond Judas to Satan himself.

Reflection:

When Judas agrees to betray Jesus, he then begins looking for an opportunity. While we may not be a part of a cosmic plan to betray Jesus, it does pose a question we must ask ourselves, "Am I looking for opportunities to commit sins that are against God's purpose for my life?" If so, it is not too late to repent. The Spirit of God is more powerful than the schemes of the devil.

Prayer:

Lord, when opportunities to commit sins that are against your purpose for my life come up, may I repent and change my course. Help me to draw closer to you, rather than choose to go further away from you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Week 5 - Tuesday, March 17

The betrayal announced

Read Matthew 26:20-25

While they are eating the Passover meal Jesus announces to his disciples, "Truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples are greatly distressed by Jesus' words. They ask him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" This is the moment that Leonardo da Vinci captures in his famous painting, **The Lord's Supper**. In every gesture and facial expression, you can see the emotions of the moment. Judas is pictured looking at Jesus, holding a money bag.



Imagine how Judas felt when Jesus made this announcement to the twelve disciples. Imagine how he felt as the other disciples said, "Surely not I, Lord." Imagine how he felt when he joined in and said, "Surely not I, Rabbi." And Jesus replied, "You have said so."

Note that the other disciples call Jesus, "Lord" and that Judas calls him "Rabbi". Does that change in title mean something to Judas? And to Jesus? Does Jesus' reply signal to Judas that Jesus knew not only that one of the disciples would betray him, but he knew which disciple would betray him? It certainly seems so! Later, at the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas will greet Jesus with the same title, "Rabbi".

Reflection:

When you are caught in the act of betrayal do you deny it? Ignore it? Repent of it? Or like Judas, complete the betrayal?

Prayer:

Jesus, when I am called out by you as one who would betray you, help me to not act like nothing is wrong or deny that I am not about to commit a grievous act. Rather, help me to repent before it is too late. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

Week 5 - Wednesday, March 18

Judas dismissed

Read John 13:21-30

The gospel of John is the only gospel that has Jesus dismissing Judas from the table. Jesus, troubled in spirit, told the disciples that one of them will betray him. The disciples were uncertain of whom he was speaking. Then Peter asks the disciple closest to Jesus to ask Jesus of whom he is speaking. Jesus replies, "It is the one to whom I give this bread when I have dipped it into the dish." Jesus gave it to Judas and said, "Do quickly what you are going to do." So, after receiving the bread Judas immediately left.

The disciples didn't know why Jesus said this. Some thought that because Judas had the "common purse" that Jesus wanted him to buy what was needed for Passover or that he should give something to the poor. It seems that only Jesus is certain of what Judas is about to do.

John closes this passage with a symbolic statement, "And it was night." It was truly a dark time for Jesus, his disciples, and his betrayer.

Reflection:

When have you encountered a dark time in your life? Could you face the darkness like Jesus, even knowing what lies ahead?

Prayer:

Almighty God, when darkness sits heavy in my life, help me to face these circumstances with courage because you are with me. Help me to hold on to you in the darkness until the day dawns. In the strong name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Week 5 - Thursday, March 19

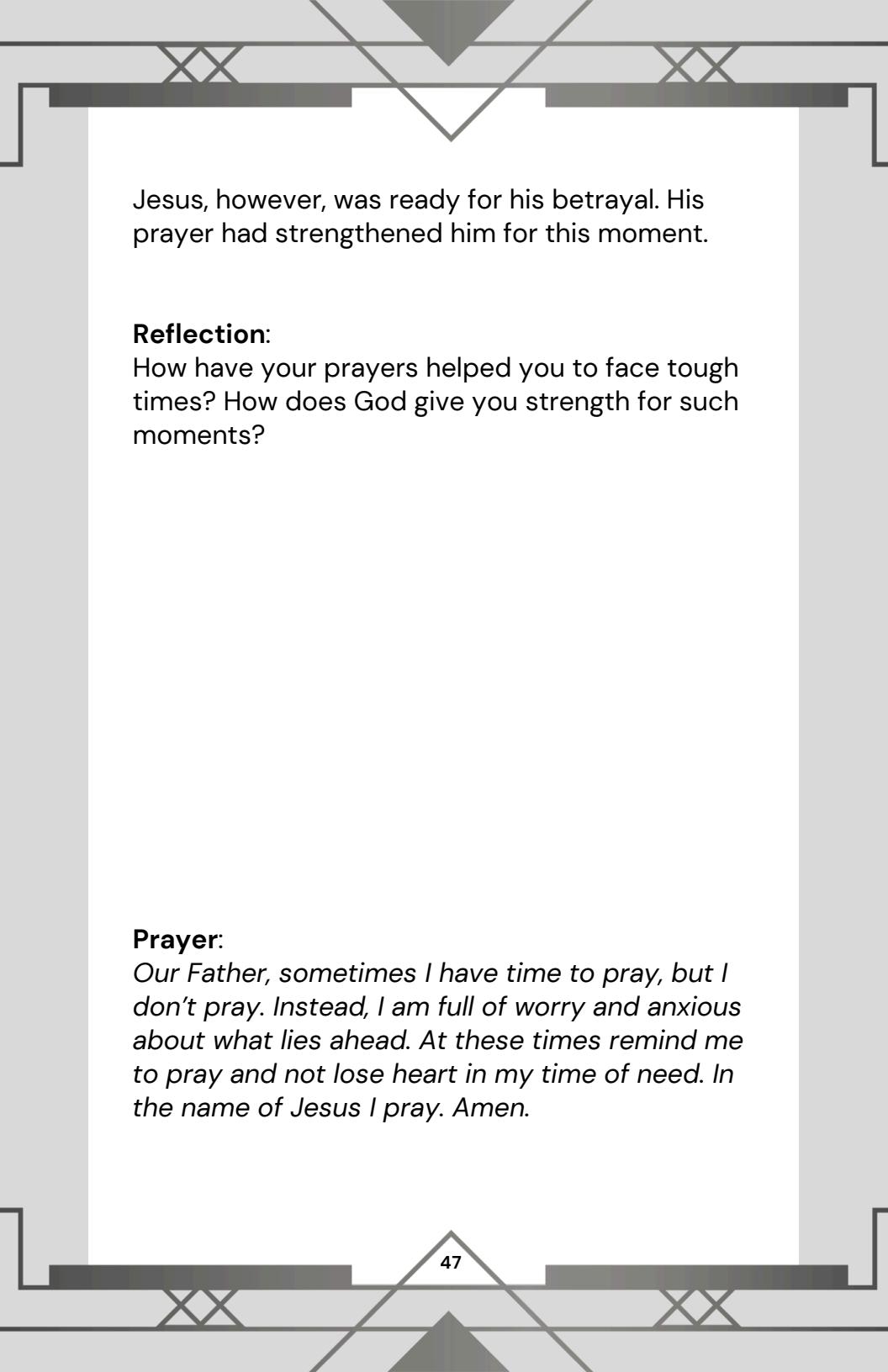
In the Garden of Gethsemane

Read Mark 14:43-45

Jesus and the remaining disciples had left the Upper Room. They walked to the Mount of Olives to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus has some time to pray. He asks three of his disciples to be with him as he prayed, but they all fell asleep. Jesus prays, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." After praying for an hour, he tells his disciples, "The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

While Jesus is still speaking Judas arrives with a crowd of people armed with swords and spears. Judas had given them a sign, "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Judas goes at once to Jesus greeting him, "Rabbi!" and he kissed him.

Judas likely chose a kiss to identify who Jesus is because it was a common greeting of his time. But, for us today, it is hard to imagine that Judas would kiss Jesus and betray him in this manner.



Jesus, however, was ready for his betrayal. His prayer had strengthened him for this moment.

Reflection:

How have your prayers helped you to face tough times? How does God give you strength for such moments?

Prayer:

Our Father, sometimes I have time to pray, but I don't pray. Instead, I am full of worry and anxious about what lies ahead. At these times remind me to pray and not lose heart in my time of need. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Week 5 - Friday, March 20

Judas gives Jesus a kiss – and regrets it

Read Matthew 27:3–5

After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas late on Thursday night, Jesus is taken to the High Priest where he is condemned for blasphemy. On Friday morning he is taken to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, who sentences him to death by crucifixion. When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. He told them, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But the chief priests were not concerned by Judas’ regret. Judas throws down the money and departs. He then went and hanged himself.

Judas is full of regret for betraying Jesus. But the deed cannot be undone. Jesus goes to the cross and is crucified. Judas goes to a tree and hangs himself. Jesus’ death saves others from eternal death. Judas’ death only condemns himself for his betrayal of Jesus; it saves no one.

However, have you ever wondered what would have happened if Judas had been alive on Sunday

to see Jesus resurrected from the dead? Would Judas have been forgiven by Jesus just as he forgave Peter for denying him three times?

Reflection:

Sometimes you think that God cannot forgive you for what you have done because you can't forgive yourself for what you have done. However, is God's grace more than we can comprehend? When you are full of regrets place yourself in God's hands to redeem your mistakes. God's grace is greater than all our sins.

Prayer:

Gracious God, when I have committed a grievous sin, I find it very difficult to forgive myself. At that moment I act as my own judge and feel that this sin cannot be forgiven. Help me to remember that you are full of mercy and your grace is greater than all my sins. Thank you. In the awesome name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Week 6 - Monday, March 23

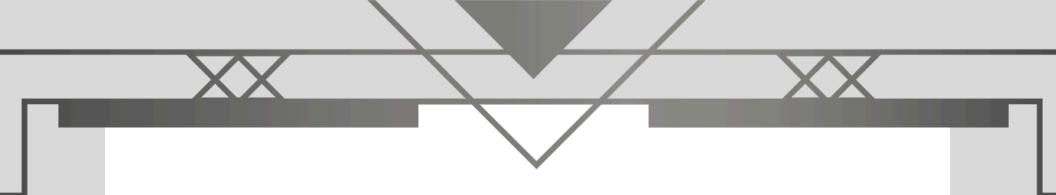
Jesus Given a Parade

Praise from the margins

Luke 19:37 – *When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.*

As Jesus draws near to Jerusalem, Luke tells us that “the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice.” This praise does not come from religious leaders or people of influence. It rises from voices often overlooked and underestimated. Those on the margins recognize what others refuse to see: the presence of God at work among them.

Their praise is not polished or restrained. It overflows with joy because it is rooted in gratitude for what they have witnessed: healing, mercy, and hope. They cannot remain silent. Even when their praise draws criticism, Jesus affirms it, declaring that if they were quiet, the stones themselves would cry out.



This passage calls us to consider our own expression of praise. In our culture, we are often concerned with what others think. But we shouldn't be, because praise is a response to the grace received when we recognize what God has done.

Lent invites us to be free with worship. As we remember what Christ has done, our praise will flow not only in words but also through lives shaped by gratitude and faith.

Reflection:

How freely do I praise Jesus through worship, gratitude, and daily obedience?

Prayer:

Father, open my heart to praise You without hesitation. Free me from fear or embarrassment and let my life reflect my gratitude for all You have done, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Week 6 - Tuesday, March 24

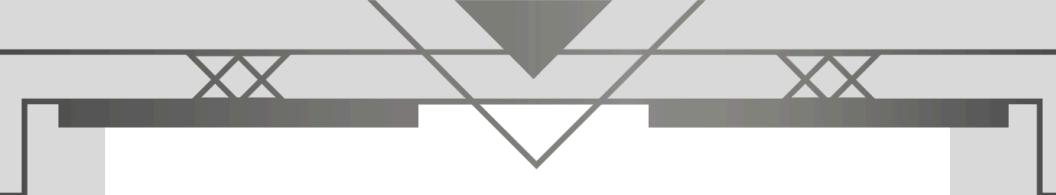
Shouts of Hosanna

Matthew 21:9 – *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd cries out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” Their praise is loud and joyful. Hope is high, expectations are rising, and worship flows easily. In moments like these, praising God feels natural when life is good and the future seems bright.

When our praise is rooted only in good moments, it is fragile. When circumstances change and life becomes difficult, worship can falter. True worship is not dependent on outcomes but on trust. Jesus is worthy of our praise not only in celebration, but also in uncertainty, suffering, and waiting. When life is hard, praising Him becomes an act of faith, declaring that God is still present and still working.

Lent invites us to examine the depth of our praise. It reminds us that following Jesus means



moving beyond the parade. It teaches us to praise Him not just with joyful shouts, but with steadfast trust, believing that He remains faithful even when we do not understand the path ahead.

Reflection:

Do I still praise Jesus when my circumstances are uncertain or painful?

Prayer:

Father, when praise feels easy, I thank You. When praise feels hard, help me trust You. Bring to my memory the ways you are faithful. Teach me to worship You in every season. I hold to Your unchanging hand. I know that you are faithful no matter what I face. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 6 - Wednesday, March 25

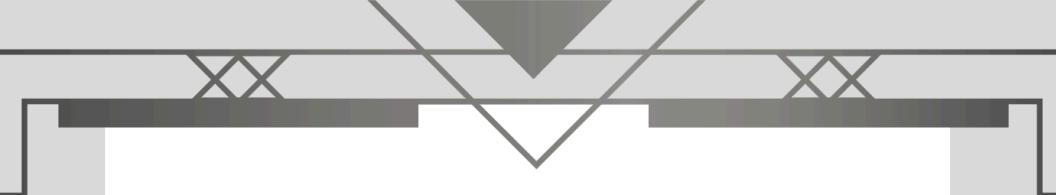
Temporary Praise

Luke 19:41 – As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.

As Jesus draws near to Jerusalem, the cheers of the crowd still echo in the air. Yet Luke tells us that Jesus sees the city and weeps over it. He sees beyond the celebration to the hearts of the people. Many praise Him, following the crowd, but few understand the kind of King He truly is. Their worship is loud but shallow, rooted in expectation rather than surrender.

Jesus knows that the same voices shouting Hosanna will soon fall silent, and many will even cry for His crucifixion. Jesus weeps because He longs for faithful, devoted followers who don't waver when hopes are challenged, and circumstances change. Temporary praise celebrates what God does; lasting praise trusts who God is.

This passage invites us to examine our own faith. Do we praise Jesus only when prayers are answered and life goes our way? Or does our worship continue through the hard times?



The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to move from shallow praise to surrendered hearts. It invites us to follow Jesus not only in the parade, but also on the road that leads to the cross.

Reflection:

Is my praise dependent on circumstances or anchored in trust?

Prayer:

Father, forgive me when my praise is shallow or short-lived. Give me a faith that endures beyond feelings. Teach me to trust You in every season and to worship You with my whole heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 6 - Thursday, March 26

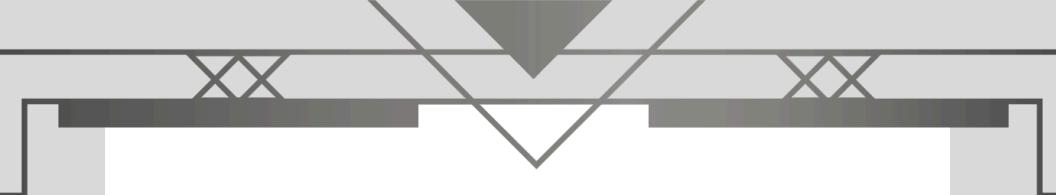
Stones Would Cry Out

Luke 19:40 – “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

When the Pharisees urge Jesus to silence the crowd, He responds, “If they were silent, the stones would cry out.” All of creation recognizes its King. The earth responds instinctively to the presence of its Creator. The human heart often responds with hesitation and resistance.

Jesus’ words reveal how natural praise is meant to be. Worship is not something we manufacture; it is a response to who Jesus is. Yet we often hold back our praise. We quiet our gratitude, even when we have witnessed God’s grace at work in our lives.

Jesus reminds us that praise will happen regardless. If we refuse, creation will testify in our place. The question we must answer is whether or not we will participate. Lent invites us to remove the barriers that keep us silent and to allow praise to flow freely from thankful hearts, obedient lives, and trust-filled worship, so that the Spirit may lead.



Letting praise come naturally means recognizing Jesus as King not only with our words, but also with our lives. When we truly see Him for who He is, praise becomes unavoidable.

Reflection:

What keeps you from praising Jesus freely?

Prayer:

Holy God, open my heart to recognize Christ as King. Remove what silences my praise so that I may worship You freely with my words and my life. May the Holy Spirit direct my praise, I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 6 - Friday, March 27

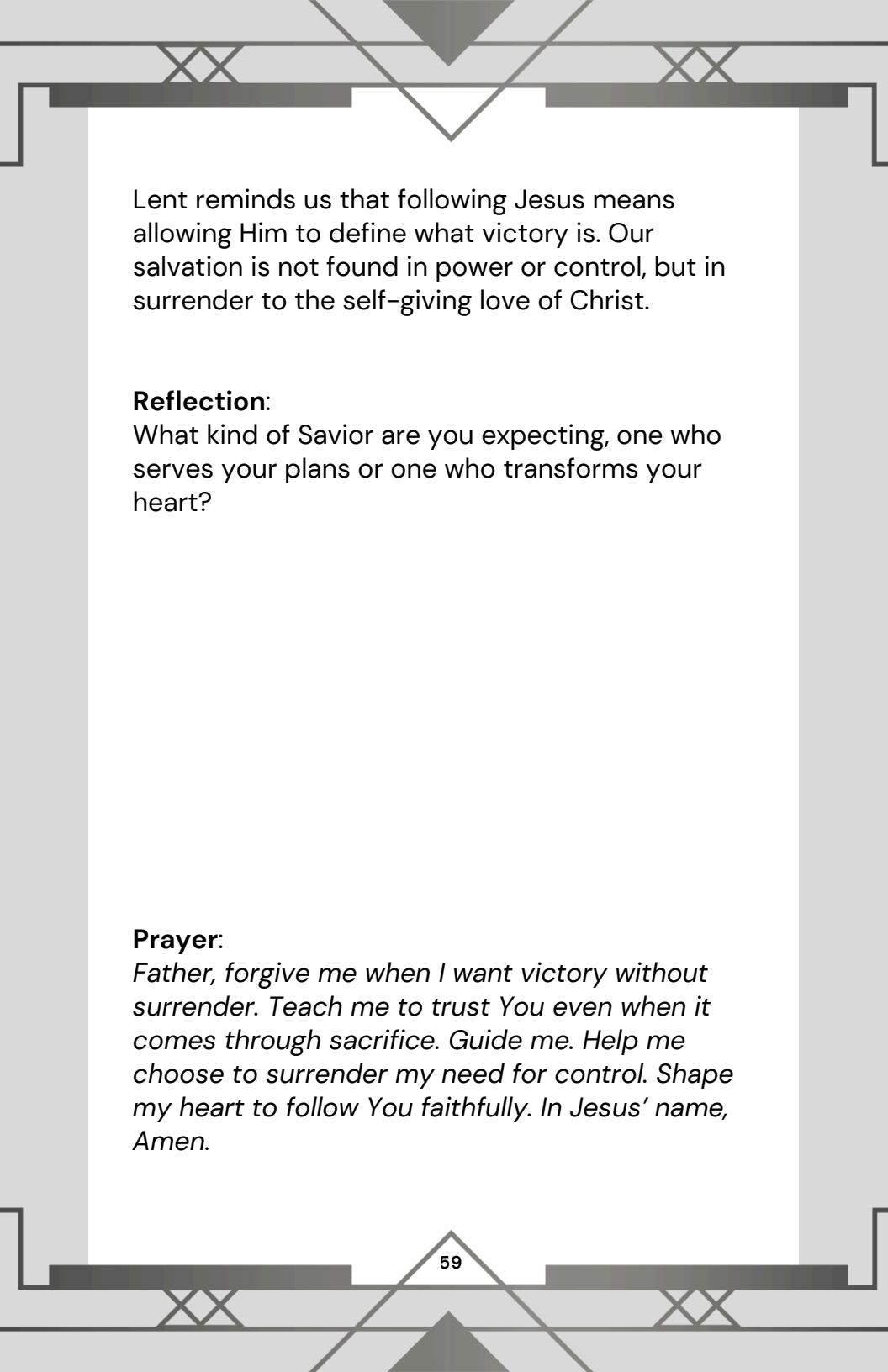
Expectations of a Savior

John 12:13 – *They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”*

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd waves palm branches and shouts, “Hosanna!” Their praise is filled with hope and with expectation. Many long for a Savior who will overthrow Rome, restore national power, and bring immediate victory. They celebrate Jesus as long as He appears to meet those desires.

Jesus comes with a very different mission. He does not arrive to take the throne, but to carry the cross. His victory will come through sacrifice, not force. The crowd wants deliverance without suffering, triumph without surrender. When Jesus refuses to meet those expectations, praise is withdrawn.

This passage invites us to examine our own expectations of Jesus. We often hope for a Savior who fixes problems quickly, removes discomfort, and confirms our plans. But Jesus comes to transform us. Jesus calls us to repentance.



Lent reminds us that following Jesus means allowing Him to define what victory is. Our salvation is not found in power or control, but in surrender to the self-giving love of Christ.

Reflection:

What kind of Savior are you expecting, one who serves your plans or one who transforms your heart?

Prayer:

Father, forgive me when I want victory without surrender. Teach me to trust You even when it comes through sacrifice. Guide me. Help me choose to surrender my need for control. Shape my heart to follow You faithfully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week 7 - Monday, March 30

Jesus Gave His Life

Yesterday was Palm Sunday and churches all around the world remembered and celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday kicks off Holy week (the week leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Sunday). The things that happened during this week changed the world. In fact, those events are still changing us today.

This week's devotionals will focus on the chronological order of everything that leads up to the cross. We will look at many of the things Jesus was given that we have already looked at during Lent, but on the day they are thought to have happened. Ultimately, everything points to the cross where Jesus gave His life.

Read Mark 11:12-19

Monday of Holy Week:

Following Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus returns the next day and this is where we read the stories of Jesus cursing the fig tree and clearing out or cleansing the Temple. Jesus is angry that the fig tree was proclaiming on the outside something it wasn't. It

showed it had fruit, but there was no fruit to eat. He was also angry that the Temple, which was to be a house of prayer for the nations, had been turned into a den of thieves.

Reflection:

In what ways might you be like the fig tree (proclaiming to be something or someone on the outside that you aren't on the inside)? How can you apply Jesus' actions in the Temple to your own life to ensure your "temple" (your body) is dedicated to God?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You gave us the ultimate example of how to walk out our faith in Spirit and in Truth. Search our hearts today and help us to see if there are any ways we are pretending to be something we are not. Be our Good Shepherd! Guide us back to the right path, that we may walk in Your ways and bear Your name in earnest. May we glorify You in all we say and do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 7 - Tuesday, March 31

Read Mark 11:20–13:37

Tuesday of Holy Week:

Jesus returns to the Temple where He is confronted by the religious leaders for His actions from the day before. The Pharisees aren't just looking to give Jesus grief, they also dispute His authority, which leads to Jesus teaching on a variety of things, including:

- The parable of the wicked tenants
- Answers a question on paying taxes
- The greatest commandment
- And a prophecy concerning the future

Jesus rebukes the Sadducees who deny the resurrection and rebukes the Pharisees with the seven woes.

Reflection:

In reflecting on the greatest commandment (12:28–34), what would it look like for you to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength this week? In what ways can you better love your neighbor as yourself?

Prayer:

Lord, we confess that we do not always love You with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength and we do not always love our neighbor as our self. Sometimes, Lord, we do not even know how to love ourselves. We humbly come to You and ask You to be our Redeemer and our Helper. Forgive us as we forgive others. Transform our lives that they may be lived for You! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 7 - Wednesday, April 1

Read Mark 14:1-11

Wednesday of Holy Week:

We are now just two days away from Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After two stressful days of tension and heated interactions with the religious leaders, this was more than likely a day of rest for Jesus and His disciples.

Consider it the calm before the storm. No parables. No rebukes. No public teaching. No interactions with the religious leaders out to get Him. According to Mark, just the beautiful story of Jesus being anointed at the home of Simon, a man who previously had leprosy.

Although some of the disciples were upset at this woman for “wasting” such expensive perfume, Jesus puts them in their place and shockingly reveals that she has anointed His body for burial. Jesus was much closer to being crucified than any of them could have imagined.

We also read on this day that Judas goes to meet with the leading priests with the intention to betray Jesus. This is the very thing the religious leaders needed to finally get Him.

Reflection:

In what ways does this story challenge your understanding of what it means to give generously to God? What are some practical ways you can demonstrate a similar level of devotion to Jesus this week?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we remember today how lovingly one of Your followers thought to anoint Your body for burial, we ask You to help us consider how we, too, can give extravagantly for Your will in the world. Soften our hearts. Be our Provider! And provide for others by allowing us to be Your hands and feet today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 7 - Thursday, April 2

Read Mark 14:12–52

Maundy Thursday:

In an upper room, Jesus prepares both Himself and His disciples for His death during what we have come to call the Last Supper. As Jesus leads them in the Holy Passover meal, He uses it to begin a New Covenant. The broken bread represents His soon to be broken body and the wine represents His soon to be shed blood.

Following dinner, Jesus leads the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He asks them to keep watch with Him while He prays. In agony as He faces His impending death, Jesus pleads with His father to “take this cup of suffering away from me.” This is also where we see the incredible love and trust Jesus has in the Father as He ends His prayer with the statement, “Yet I want Your will to be done, not mine.”

Reflection:

What is the significance of the Passover meal in Jewish tradition? (Read **Exodus 12**) How does the symbolism of the Passover lamb connect to Jesus as the “Lamb of God” who takes away the sins of the world?

Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, Passover Lamb, we remember You.
On Maundy Thursday, You took an ancient,
faithful practice and gave it new meaning. May
You similarly transform our lives to new meaning
and new purpose today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Week 7 - Friday, April 3

Read Mark 14:53-15:47

Good Friday:

The day begins just after midnight as Jesus has now been betrayed and arrested. The next few hours are marked by multiple trials, false witnesses, angry mobs, denial, mocking, brutal beatings, darkness and ultimately crucifixion and burial.

So why do we call this horrible day in history Good Friday? Jesus' death was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, saving us from death. Jesus did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. Paul writes in **Romans 5:8**, "*God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*" And Peter writes in **1 Peter 3:18**, "*Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit.*"

While the things done to Jesus on that day were far from good, the results of His death and resurrection are very good.

Reflection:

In reflecting on Peter's denial of Jesus (14:16-72), in what ways have you denied Jesus this week? Or another way to think about it, in what situations have you chosen something or someone over following Jesus? As you reflect on the events of Good Friday, what emotions and thoughts do you have?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, on this Good Friday, we are grateful and overwhelmed by how You freely gave the gift we could never have given – Your life. You not only gave, Lord, but You took. You took on our sin, our shame, our death, our past and our mistakes. Surely, You are our Mediator and our Deliverer. We put our trust in You and praise You today! In Jesus' name. Amen.

All to Jesus Sermon Series

Sunday, February 22



Woman Gives Perfume

- Matthew 26:6-13
- Mark 14:3-9
- John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 1



Religious Leaders Give Grief

- Matthew 21

Sunday, March 8



Jesus Given a Donkey

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-10
- Luke 19:28-40
- John 12:12-16

Sunday, March 15



Jesus Given a Room

- Matthew 26:17-30
- Mark 14:12-26
- Luke 22:7-38
- John 13:1-38

Sunday, March 22



Judas Gives Jesus a Kiss

- Matthew 26:48-50
- Mark 14:44-46
- Luke 22:47-48

Sunday, March 29



Jesus Given a Parade

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-11
- Luke 19:28-40
- John 12:12-19

Sunday, April 5



Easter Sunday Jesus Gave His Life

Join us for Holy Week & Easter!

- **Easter Hop Family Dance**

- Friday, March 27 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Scan the QR code to register.



- **Holy Week Services**

- Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 6:00 pm
- Good Friday, April 3 @ 6:00 pm

- **Easter Services**

- Saturday, April 4 @ 5:00 pm
- Sunday, April 5 @ 9:00 am
- Sunday, April 5 @ 10:30 am

