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WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS
of JESUS
TOWARD THE CROSS

A PASSION WEEK Devotional
2009

By Brian Harpell

PASSION WEEK INTRODUCTION

Passion Week (also known as Holy Week) is the time from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday). Passion Week is so named because of the passion with which Jesus willingly went to the cross in order to pay for our sins.

Passion Week contains several memorable events. Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly. Jesus cleanses the temple. Jesus predicts his death. Jesus is betrayed. Jesus eats his last supper with his disciples in the upper room then goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray as he waits for his hour to come. It is here that Jesus is arrested and taken to several sham trials before the chief priests, Pontius Pilate, and Herod.

Following the trials, Jesus is scourged at the hands of the Roman soldiers, then is forced to carry his own instrument of execution (the cross) through the streets of Jerusalem along what is known as the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows). Jesus is then crucified at Golgotha on the day before the Sabbath, is buried and remains in the tomb until Sunday, the day after the Sabbath, and then is gloriously resurrected.

It is referred to as Passion Week because in this one week period of time, Jesus Christ truly revealed His passion for us in what he willingly went through on our behalf. What should our attitude be during Passion Week? We should be passionate in our worship of Jesus and in our proclamation of his Gospel! This devotional is our gift to you to assist you in your personal daily worship during Passion Week.

INSTRUCTIONS

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus Toward the Cross

With this Passion Week devotional we will take a journey with Jesus his last week before he was crucified. Each day of Passion Week (Holy Week) you are invited to have a time each day where you will spend with Jesus.

When you do this each day is not most important. You may choose to rise early and spend a few moments with Jesus before your day begins. Or you might choose to carve out a time in the middle of your day, perhaps at lunch, when you will spend time with him. Or you may choose to commit to this journey with Jesus each night before going to bed.

You can do this journey individually. You could meet with another person daily to walk through this week. Or you could do this journey as a family.

Each day we will focus on a passage of Scripture which will take us back to one of the days of Jesus' passion. Begin by slowly reading the Scripture assigned.

Following the reading of Scripture, there are reflection questions provided for you. Take time to answer the questions as deeply and as specifically as you can. Write down your thoughts.

A prayer is provided to get you started with your conversation with Jesus. On the opposite page, you are encouraged to write your thoughts and conversation with Jesus. Just begin your conversation with, "Lord..." and talk with him about his Word to you that day.

Finally, we have provided an opportunity to very practically respond to the Scripture of the day. This section is provided to put the Scripture into action. But be open to whatever Jesus might invite you to do.

God bless you in the journey!
Pastor Brian

DAY ONE: SUNDAY, APRIL 5



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus' Triumphal Entry ~ Matthew 21: 1-11

REFLECT

- How is Jesus "King" of your life?
- The people's Palm Sunday cheering later turned to jeering. How have you found people to be fickle? Ever been fickle yourself?

PRAYER

Lord, you are the King of kings, Lord of lords! You deserve subjects who are much more faithful than I am. Forgive me when I have been fickle, unfaithful and have not followed through on things you have commanded of me...

RESPOND

Join with other believers in Palm Sunday worship today and choose to praise him and sing your Hosannas with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Bring home a palm branch and place it in a prominent place to remind you that Jesus is your Lord and King.

Lord, _____

Amen!



DAY TWO: MONDAY, APRIL 6



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus Cleansing the Temple ~ Luke 19:45-48

REFLECT

- Why do you think Jesus was so upset upon entering the temple?
- Have you ever misused something God gave you? How?

PRAYER

Lord, I am so thankful for the opportunity to worship you as my King. You are King and I am your subject. I want to live my life submitted to you and your Word. Forgive me for those times I have treated you like my personal servant, more than the Lord of my life...

RESPOND

Jesus said that His house was to be a house of prayer. Pray today, asking God to help you become more a person of prayer.

Lord, _____

Amen!



DAY THREE: TUESDAY, APRIL 7



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus Predicts His Death ~ John 12:20-34

REFLECT

- Jesus talked about a kernel of wheat falling to the ground to die so that it produced many seeds. What, in you, needs to die?
- How could God's name be glorified in you today?

PRAYER

Lord, I want you to increase as I decrease, so that people would see more of you in me. I want to put to death anything and everything that would get in the way of you being seen in me...

RESPOND

Consider fasting at lunch today and give the time to prayer. Throughout the afternoon, each time your stomach reminds you of your hunger, ask God to give you a hunger for him and his righteousness.

Lord, _____

Amen!



DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus' Betrayal ~ Luke 22:1-6

REFLECT

- Has a friend or family member ever betrayed you or let you down?
- Is there any hurt you are hanging on to that you need to give over to God?

PRAYER

Lord, you have invited me into a relationship with you that is supposed to affect all my other relationships. Help me with my relationships with others, especially with those who have disappointed me. Help me to forgive...

RESPOND

Call, e-mail or send a personal invitation to someone and invite them to join you on Sunday at our special Easter Sunday Service.

Lord, _____

Amen!



**DAY FIVE:
APRIL 9 ~ MAUNDY THURSDAY**

READ

Jesus' Last Supper ~ Luke 22:7-23 & John 2-17

REFLECT

- Jesus said that one of his very own would betray him. Each of his disciples asked, "Is it I?" Ask the Lord the question today, "Is it I? Is there any way I am betraying You?"
- Jesus washed his disciples' feet and gave us an example. Whose feet might you need to wash?

PRAYER

Lord, you have given me an example of servanthood. Please help me to learn humility from you and be willing to serve you whenever, wherever, and however you want me to serve...

RESPOND

Attend the Maundy Thursday communion service tonight at 7:00 pm where we will learn more about the Passover Meals from *Jews for Jesus* and share the communion meal.



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

Lord, _____



Amen!



**DAY SIX:
APRIL 10 ~ GOOD FRIDAY**



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus' Death ~ John 19:1-30

REFLECT

- What do you think of Pilate's handling of the trial? In what way is Pilate just like us?
- List the many cruel things that were done to Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord, you bore my sins in your body on the cross. I am so sorry for the pain you had to endure...

RESPOND

The film *The Passion of the Christ* is a fairly accurate, heart-wrenching depiction of the suffering of Christ on Good Friday. Join others tonight at FBC at a 6:00 pm for a showing of *The Passion of the Christ*. Please note that this film is R-rated. (17 years and older, 14-16 accompanied by an adult.)

Lord, _____

Amen!



DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 11



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

READ

Jesus' Burial ~ Matthew 27:57-66

REFLECT

- Use your imagination. What kind of person do you think Joseph of Arimathea was, and what do you think he was feeling?
- What do you think the two Marys were feeling and thinking?

PRAYER

Lord, I know that goodbyes, endings, and death, are all part of life. I am so thankful that you offer us eternal life, heaven, and a love that endures forever...

RESPOND

Take a quiet walk today, perhaps in a cemetery. If you walk as a family, discuss the question, "Why is Easter so important?" Or send a thoughtful note or card to someone who has lost a loved one and encourage them with the hope we have in Jesus Christ who is the resurrection and the life.

Lord, _____

Amen!



DAY EIGHT: APRIL 12 ~ EASTER SUNDAY

READ

Jesus' Resurrection ~ Matthew 28:1-20

REFLECT

- Rise early this morning and read the story of the resurrection of Jesus before you come to Easter Sunday worship to prepare your own heart for worship.
- Describe how the women must have felt—described by Matthew as “afraid yet filled with joy” as they left the empty tomb. Use your imagination and try to put yourself in their place and feel the feelings they must have had.

PRAYER

Lord, you are my hope. When life gets most challenging, I find my hope in you, who, having faced the worst, rose victorious from the grave. I want to live my life with hope and optimism...

RESPOND

Join with Christians around the world in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ by attending either the 9:00 am or 11:00 am Easter worship service. During worship, consider how the power of the resurrection has transformed your life. Write on a communication card, what you once were—before Christ was in your life—and what you are today as a result of the living Christ in you.



Today's Journal: Write your thoughts and prayers in the area below.

Lord, _____

Amen!

