

Good Friday – April 7, 2023

Welcome to our Good Friday service for this year. My hope for you during this evening's service is that you see this day as a cause for remembrance and celebration. Even though Friday was a rough day for Jesus, for His family, and for the disciples, for us, this day stands as a reminder of the price Jesus paid for me and you so that we could have access to Him forever. And as you know, forever is a long time and I cannot think of a better person to spend a long time with other than my Savior. Amen!

This past week is known as "Passion Week" and for most Christians it's always one of the most special times of the year. Each day of Passion Week, beginning with Palm Sunday reminds us of the events which led to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. In fact, Easter is a time for us to proclaim the cross of Christ and celebrate His resurrection. It is the best time of the year to remind others that Jesus is Alive!

Video: It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming (The Gateway Church 3:37) [It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming - YouTube](#)

I've always been interested in the events preceding Jesus' resurrection. If you think back to Palm Sunday, one of the important things to remember about this day is the fulfillment of prophecy as found in Zechariah 9. Jesus is the King and He was deserving of the shouts of Hosanna, even though He knew that those shouts would soon be turned from ones of joy to ones of deception.

The next day, **Monday**, as Jesus and a few disciples entered Jerusalem, he used a barren fig tree as a teaching moment. In this moment, Jesus taught the disciples, as well as us today, about the importance of remaining strong in our faith. Jesus teaches that our unwavering trust and confidence in Him will lead to earthly moments where God's power is manifest into our lives.

It was also on this day when Jesus gave us a specific example of how we are to view our time of worship. The moment of Jesus clearing out the courtyard of the temple has been used in many messages by many pastors to speak about Jesus' anger and how His reaction was warranted. While there is nothing wrong with this approach, I want to point out that the message in that moment was about worship. If we allow any practice to interfere with our worship, then we must put a stop to it.

On **Tuesday**, Jesus would face more scrutiny, more opposition, and even an ambush from the religious leaders of the Temple. They, of course were upset with Him for the previous day's events but were more upset with Him for establishing Himself as a spiritual authority in "their" Temple. It's safe to say that Jesus knew what was awaiting Him soon.

Tuesday is also the day where Jesus traveled to the Mount of Olives and through His usual method of teaching in parables, delivered a detailed message filled with symbolic language which spoke of end times and of His second coming. Jesus was once again letting us know about the promise of His return!

And, while all these things were happening, Judas, thought it was a promising idea to turn his back on Jesus. It was on this day that Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. The Bible says, that from that moment forward, Judas sought out his opportunity.

Tuesday was a very exhausting day for Jesus and as a result, many scholars suggest that Jesus and the disciples spent Tuesday evening and all of **Wednesday** resting and in fellowship with friends and family in Bethany. Perhaps, knowing what He was about to face and knowing the level of stress that was coming for the disciples and his friends and family, Jesus knew a season of rest was needed. It reminds me of Jesus' words found in Matthew 11. *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Song: Goodness of God (CeCe Winans Official Lyric Video 4:57) [CeCe Winans - Goodness of God \(Official Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

Thursday was an eventful day for our Lord and His followers. Things began to turn, and Jesus knew what was to come. He sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the Passover Feast, and just after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. Jesus' humble act of service demonstrated by example how believers should love one another.

It was then, Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples, saying: *"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."*

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this meal, Jesus' last, He established the Lord's Supper instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine (Luke 22:19-20).

The Lord's Supper:

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."*

I invite you to listen to the words of these songs and as your heart becomes ready to receive this evening's elements, come forward and take the bread and the cup with you back to your seat.

Song: To the Table (Larry Fleet 3:32) [Larry Fleet - To The Table \(Cover\) - YouTube](#)

Song: How Deep the Father's Love For Us (Austin Stone 4:30) [How Deep the Father's Love For Us - Austin Stone Worship Live - YouTube](#)

After everyone is seated: 1 Peter 2:24 helps us understand the bread of the Lord's Supper. It reads, *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

Jesus, on Thursday evening said to the disciples: *"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."* And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, *"Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."* (Luke 22:15-18)

This evening you have an opportunity to participate in a similar meal, done in remembrance of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Prayer

And he (Jesus) took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Eat

And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Drink

It was shortly after this time together that Jesus and the disciples returned to the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane for the purpose of prayer. Luke's Gospel shares with us an intimate detail about Jesus during this time. Luke shares: "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." We will never comprehend the things Jesus went through physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually as He went to the cross and the grave in our place.

And now we come to **Good Friday**. The most difficult of Jesus' days, yet our most promising, our most hope filled! Christ's journey turned treacherous and extremely painful in the final hours leading to his death.

Before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by means of crucifixion on the cross. As Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented him, mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. As if this was not enough, they even forced Jesus to carry his own cross up the path leading to Golgotha, the hill of skulls, up to the place we call Calvary, where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the cross and waited for His eventual death.

Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34, ESV). His last words were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46, ESV)

Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

Play Video Clip: At the cross (Red Mountain Church) Passion of the Christ 1:48 [AT THE CROSS \(Red Mountain Church\) - Crucifixion from Passion Of The Christ - YouTube](#)

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. And now we wait, just like the disciples did, for what would come next. We wait for the opportunity to celebrate and shout praises on Sunday morning about our risen King, our risen Savior! We wait so that we can shout to the world that **Jesus is Alive!**

Good Friday, as terrible as that day was, had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter morning. The wrath of God against sin had to be poured out on Jesus, the perfect sacrificial substitute, for forgiveness and salvation to be poured out to all people. Without that awful day of suffering, sorrow, and shed blood on the cross, God could not be both “just and justifier” of those who trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. On a day that seemed to be the greatest triumph of evil God gloriously redeemed the world from bondage and fulfilled yet another of His great promises.

Song: Hallelujah! What a Savior (Austin Stone 5:22) [The Austin Stone - Hallelujah, What a Savior \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)