

## EASTER - THE WORDS OF PASSION WEEK

### A. PALM SUNDAY - RESPECT

1. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.
  - a. It was Passover Week where the population of Jerusalem would swell from 40,000 to 250,000.
  - b. Matthew 21:9, *And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*
  - c. Hosanna is a Hebrew word which means, *Save now*.
2. The same people who respected Jesus on Sunday were the same ones who demanded He be crucified on Friday.

### B. MONDAY - REBUKE

1. Jesus cleansed the temple, Matthew 21:12-13, *"It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."*
2. Jesus' focus was not on His coming suffering but on honoring His Father.

### C. TUESDAY - REVERENCE

1. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus.
  - a. Jesus was the houseguest of a religious leader who had not even offered Jesus a place to wash His feet.
  - b. Matthew 26:12, *In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.*
  - c. The one who is forgiven much loves much.
2. Jesus is worthy of our honor not only for what He did but for Who He is.

### D. WEDNESDAY - REVELATION

1. Jesus instructed His disciples (The Olivet Discourse)
  - a. Jesus responded to the disciples' questions concerning future events, the end of the Age.
  - b. Matthew 24:29-30, *...the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*
2. Jesus is coming again not as a suffering servant but as King of Kings.

### E. THURSDAY - REJECTION

1. Jesus was betrayed, arrested and put on trial, Matthew 26:31-32 *You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."*
2. Our eternal security is based on God's faithfulness to us not our faithfulness to Him.

### F. FRIDAY - REDEMPTION

1. Jesus was nailed to a cross.
  - a. The Roman government used crucifixion against the worst criminals who were not Roman citizens.
  - b. Words from the cross.
    - 1) A cry to God, Matthew 27:46, *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*
      - a) This was a cry at the level of Jesus' full humanity, Arthur Pink, *It was a cry of distress but not of distrust.*
      - b) At that moment, He was separated for the only time, past, present, or future, from God, Erwin Lutzer, *This was a break in fellowship, not a break of the fundamental unity of the Father and Son.*
    - 2) A request to His Father, Luke 23:34, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*
      - a) Jesus' request is timeless. Those in need of forgiveness is a much larger group than those in Jerusalem.
      - b) His request was granted because of Who and what He did.

- 3) A proclamation of triumph, John 19:30, *It is finished.*
  - a) At this moment, payment was made in full by God the Creator for all who place their trust in Him alone.
  - b) Death was defeated, redemption was secured.
- 4) A declaration of trust, Luke 23:46, *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!*
  - a) At that moment, Jesus passed from life to death in order to deliver us from death to life.
  - b) The Creator of the universe experienced the destructive power of sin and defeated it.

2. Jesus alone is the sacrifice for our sins.

#### G. SATURDAY - REMORSE

1. Jesus was laid in a tomb but there had been such high hopes that Jesus was the Messiah, Luke 24:20-21, *...and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.*
2. Trust in Jesus brings only temporary distress.

#### H. EASTER SUNDAY - RESURRECTION

1. The tomb was empty, Matthew 28:1-6, *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said..."*
2. Because Jesus defeated death, so can we! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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- A. Jesus told Nicodemus, a religious leader of the nation of Israel, what he must do to be saved, John 3:3, *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
- B. New birth is the result of placing one's faith in Christ alone because only Jesus can make payment for the sins of all who come to Him by faith alone.
- C. The resurrection of Jesus declares that new birth is possible, Peter declared in 1 Peter 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*
- D. Athanasius, a great theologian from the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD, *Death is destroyed. The cross has triumphed over it. It no longer has any power but is truly dead...Before the Savior came, death was terrible to the saints. Everyone wept for the dead as though they perished. But now that the Savior has risen, death isn't terrible anymore. For everyone who believes in Christ tramples over death...For they know that when they die they aren't destroyed, but actually begin to live. Through the resurrection they become incorruptible.*
- E. D. L. Moody said as he was dying, *Earth recedes; Heaven opens for me...If this is death, it is sweet.*
- F. Respect, Rebuke, Reverence, Revelation, Rejection, Redemption, Remorse and Resurrection all lead to Calvary where death is defeated and life is made new.
- G. What about you? Can you say, He is risen! He is risen indeed!