

Good Friday/Easter Reflection

To help our minds meditate on the cost of our salvation and the impact of the resurrection spend some time reading passages about these momentous events. During our upcoming Good Friday service the body will be taking communion together to remember these important actions of our Lord and Savior and their significance upon our lives.

So often we live such busy lives that we do not take time to slow down and meditate on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We must not allow the business of our lives or lack of preparation to become excuses for thinking deeply and appreciatively on the works of Christ on our behalf. ***“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”*** (2 Cor. 5:21). God the Father was willing to send His one and only unique Son because he is rich in mercy and filled with great love even though we were dead in our sin (Eph. 2:4-7). His grace was made available through repentance and faith in Christ's work on the cross to display the ***“immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus”*** (Eph. 2:7).

We must never forget the pain and agony that Christ experienced when he said, ***“Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done”*** (Luke 22:42). He was willing to ***“humble himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”*** (Phil. 2:8)

The goal of Good Friday and Resurrection Day reflection:

- **Reflect on the submission of Christ** to the will of the Father by reading and reflecting on the Passion Week of Jesus
- **Develop thankful hearts** for the submission of the Son to the will of the Father
- Examine our own hearts before the Lord and **consider our willingness to submit to Christ in all things**
- **Rejoice over the exaltation of the Son** by reflecting on the Resurrection of our Savior from the grave

Reflection #1

Jesus foretells of His Death a third time to the Disciples

Just prior to the beginning of the Passion Week, Jesus foretells of his death to the disciples for a third time. The time for which the Son came was near at hand.

Read: Matthew 20:17–19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31–33

As Jesus makes his way from Jericho to Jerusalem he stops before entering Jerusalem in the small village of Bethany, the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Listen to the people's anticipation of whether Jesus would come to the Passover.

Read: John 11: 1-16; 17-27; 28-37; 38-44; 45-55.

Question: What created such a messianic anticipation among the people of Israel?

Reflection #2

The Triumphal Entry

On Palm Sunday Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the people shouted, "*Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!*"

Read Luke's account of the Triumphal Entry and discuss the paradox of the people who were willing to hail him as their King on Sunday but would call out to crucify him a few days later.

Read: Luke 19:28-44 (Luke 19:41-44 records Jesus weeping)

Question: What made this moment so heartbreaking for Jesus?

Reflection #3

Monday of the Passion Week

On Monday of the Passion Week, some Greeks who came to worship in Jerusalem desired to speak with Jesus.

Read: John 12:20-50

Question: What significant foreshadowing occurs in this scripture that would have taken place on Monday of the Passion Week?

Question: How should this passage help us praise the work of Jesus in Redemption?

Reflection #4

Tuesday of the Passion Week

Tuesday morning and afternoon was a time of controversy and Jesus's last public discourse. Jesus would confront the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the Sadducees pronouncing seven woes to them.

Read: Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

On Tuesday evening, Judas, still likely upset by Jesus's rebuke at Bethany, sets out to betray Jesus.

Read: Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6

The gospels do not record any activity on Wednesday. Thursday afternoon begins the preparation for the last supper Jesus would have with his disciples.¹ On Thursday evening, Jesus would have one last meal with his precious disciples and Jesus tells John that Judas is the betrayer.

Read: John 13:1-20

Question: What is the significance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet?

¹ Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13

Reflection #5

Thursday of the Passion Week

Late Thursday evening the rest of the disciples depart and make their way down to the Garden of Gethsemane. Walking on his way to the garden John records Jesus's High priestly prayer in John 17. It is here, in the Garden of Gethsemane where we see the agony of Jesus as he sweats drops of blood.

Read: Matthew 26:30, 36-46; Mark 14:26, 32-42; Luke 22:39-46

Question: What makes this scene of the passion week so special to us as Christians?

Reflection #6

Friday of the Passion Week

On Friday morning before dawn Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane and a trial before the high priest begins. ² Jesus is then formally condemned by the Jewish Council. ³ Just before dawn and the people of Jerusalem awake Jesus is rushed off to stand trial before Pontius Pilate for the first time. ⁴ Jesus then returns before Pilate a second time where Pilate gives in to the Jews' request to crucify Jesus. ⁵

Read: Matthew 27:32-50; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49;
John 19:18-30

Question: What event at the cross or saying of Jesus stand out to you?

² Matthew 26:57, 59-68; Mark 14:53, 55-65; Luke 22:54, 63-65 John 18:24

³ Matthew 27:1; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71

⁴ Matthew 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38

⁵ Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39 – 19:16

Reflection #7

The Resurrection of Jesus from the Grave

Jesus's body is taken off the cross and buried before sundown on Friday evening. ⁶ In three days Mary Magdalene and the other Mary would go to the tomb and here these words pronounced from an angel about Christ. "*He is not here, for he has risen as he said.*" ⁷ Mary would be told to tell Jesus's disciples. Peter and John would run to the tomb.

Read: Luke 24:9-12; John 20:2-10

⁶ Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-42

⁷ Matthew 28:1-10

Reflection #8

Jesus's Post Resurrection Ministry and Message

After Jesus's resurrection Luke records in Acts 1:3 that Jesus presented himself alive for forty days and continued to teach them the truths of God. Paul would later discuss this in his writing to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-11; Acts 1:6-11

Respond to the important aspects of the Gospel of Christ

Reflection #9

Jesus's Power over Sin and Death

Rejoice over Christ's power over death.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 50-58

Question: How do the truths of these verses cause you to rejoice?

Reflection #10

Pray, Reflect, Examine, Rejoice

Take time to pray, thanking God for the work of Christ redemption as we approach Good Friday and Resurrection Day.

Examine yourself before taking communion.

Categories of Thanksgiving:

Christ's Humility

Christ's Sacrifice

Christ's Example of Suffering

Christ's Forgiveness and Eternal Life

Christ's Resurrection