AN
8-DAY
REVOLUTION
FRIDAY TO FRIDAY

A LENTEN STUDY
BY REV. JASON J. NELSON
AN 8-DAY REVOLUTION
FRIDAY TO FRIDAY

A LENTEN STUDY
BY REV. JASON J. NELSON
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>WELCOMES DEATH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>UNDERMINES ESTABLISHMENT</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>CLEANS HOUSE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>ANSWERS TO NO ONE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>REDEFINES RELIGION</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>OPENS PARADISE</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPENING PRAYER

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)
I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am yours.
So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

 BEFORE WE START

Jesus was not only willing to lay down His life for humanity; He welcomed death on our behalf. As believers we often say we are willing to die for Jesus, but the better question is are we willing to live for Him? In what ways is He figuratively calling you to lay down your life for Him?

 IN THE WORD

Read aloud:
John 12:1 - 11

TWEETABLE WORDS

#FridayToFriday “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”
— John 11:25 - 26

“Mary anoints Jesus with a pint of perfume — it’s strong enough to stay on Jesus’ feet as He walks His cross down the Via Dolorosa one week later.”

“When it comes to pouring out love, Jesus is as dramatic and excessive and as over-the-top as you can get.”

“The distance from Bethany to Jerusalem is about two miles. So Jesus didn’t just walk a mile in our shoes — you could actually say He went an extra mile for us.”

 AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions

It’s not an everyday occurrence that people get to dine with someone who has been raised from the dead; but it can be an everyday occurrence to dine with Jesus. Can you imagine along with Jason what it must have been like to attend this dinner party held in Jesus’ honor? In what ways are you allowing Jesus to be the honored guest at your table?

“Picture what it would be like to host a dinner in Jesus’ honor. Whom would you invite, what would you wish to discuss, what would you serve and what might this dinner look like?”

Mary poured out a year’s worth of wages upon Jesus. What is your initial reaction to her extravagantly generous act of adoration and worship? How would you have responded upon seeing this gesture of love?

“What would the equivalent of Mary’s worshipful act of love be for us in today’s culture and context? What can you give Jesus as a symbol of your adoration and worship?”
Have you ever seen anyone have such extravagant generosity for the cause of Christ as Mary did? Have you ever seen someone so devoted to Jesus? If so, explain.

Jesus openly rebukes Judas and validates Mary’s heart of service in order to welcome His impending burial. Jesus clearly knows He’s heading to the cross at this point. How does His willingness to welcome death make you feel?

What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What about the disciples and/or anyone who is called to follow Him and serve as He served?

A WORD OF CHALLENGE

Jesus left the comforts of this community of companionship and walked two miles northwest knowing He would inevitably embrace the cruelty of the cross. If possible, take as many two-mile walks as you can during Lent to pray, meditate on scripture, and reflect upon the unfathomable love Christ has for you. Or set aside at least two hours each week to saturate yourself with Scripture.

YOUR WORDS

OTHER WORDS

“Everything in the world is sold for what it is worth, and people trade objects for their equivalent. But the promise of eternal life is purchased for next to nothing.” — Athanasius

“If you plan to build high houses of virtues, you must first lay deep foundations of humility.” — Augustine

“To abandon all, to strip one’s self of all, in order to seek and follow Jesus Christ naked to Bethlehem where He was born, naked to the hall where He was scourged, and naked to Calvary where He died on the cross, is so great a mystery that neither the thing nor the knowledge of it is given to any but through faith in the Son of God.” — John Wesley

“It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.” — Augustine
WEEK 2 – SUNDAY
UNDER MINES
ESTABLISHMENT
OPENING PRAYER

“We give thanks to thee, our Father, for the holy vine of thy son David, which thou hast made known to us through Jesus thy Son; Thine be the glory for ever” — Didache

BEFORE WE START

Movies have taught us over the years that conquering heroes ride into town on stallions, fly in by private jets, or speed in with the brightest of red Ferraris; and, in most cases, a red carpet or welcoming procession is awaiting his or her arrival. On Palm Sunday, Jesus road into Jerusalem on a donkey. Is this at all surprising to you? Why or why not?

IN THE WORD

Read aloud:
Matthew 21:1 – 11

VIDEO LESSON

View Lesson Two:
Sunday (Undermines Establishment)

TWEETABLE WORDS

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
— Zechariah 9:9 (NRSV)

“Jesus comes riding into town on a donkey. I wonder if anyone in the crowd thought, ‘obviously Jesus needs a new PR person.’”

“If we say that Jesus is our King, that means we’re saying He’s king over all our lives.”

“Do we want His kingdom to come? Of course we do ... every day, so every day let’s invite the King to come.”

“Jesus, our King, deserves our best; after all, He rode willingly on a donkey to give us His!”

AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions

Have you ever had an opportunity to meet someone famous? Was the encounter what you expected? Describe the meeting.

What sort of king were the people likely expecting Jesus to be this day? What kind of kingdom were they anticipating Him to establish?

The crowd proclaimed Jesus as the Son of David. What is the significance of this title and why might this proclamation have threatened the political and religious authorities of the time?

Not long before His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus criticized the leadership style of those in authority. Based upon Matthew 20:25 – 26, compare and contrast His style with the powers that be.

What is the historically biblical significance of riding into town on a donkey and of spreading cloaks and palm branches on the road? What might the equivalent of this be today?
As people called to be Christ-like, how do we go about demonstrating humility on a daily basis?

How were the peoples’ expectations different from those of Jesus’, and do you think this may have led to their change of heart by the end of the week? If so, how and why?

When was the first time Jesus rode into your life? Describe this royal encounter.

A WORD OF CHALLENGE
Exercise humility uniquely this week. Reflect upon three acts of humility that are unfamiliar to you and then act upon them. Make a meal for a neighbor, do the dishes, fold the laundry, rake someone’s yard, pay it forward, give your spouse a foot rub, etc. Take yourself out of your comfort zone and serve with humility — not just for the sake of others, but also for the sake of your humble King, Jesus Christ.

YOUR WORDS

OTHER WORDS
“There is no King but Him whom I have seen; He it is that I worship and adore. Were I to be killed a thousand times for my allegiance to Him, I should still go on as I have begun, I should still be His man. Christ is on my lips, Christ is in my heart; no torments can take Him from me.” — Genesius of Rome

“I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself have founded great empires. But our empires were founded on force. Jesus alone founded His empire on love, and to this day millions would die for Him. I think I understand something of human nature, and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man. Jesus Christ was more than man.” — Napoleon Bonaparte

“For eighty and six years have I been his [Christ’s] servant, and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” — Polycarp

“Death may be the king of terrors...but Jesus is the King of Kings!” — Dwight L. Moody
OPENING PRAYER | Psalm 51

BEFORE WE START

On a daily basis we are barraged with acts of immorality. Have we as a society become desensitized to sin? When was the last time you witnessed something that caused you to become morally outraged? What was it and what did you do about it?

IN THE WORD

Read aloud:
Matthew 21:12 - 17

VIDEO LESSON

View Lesson Three:
Monday (Cleans House)

TWEETABLE WORDS

“What Jesus did in the temple wasn’t just disruptive – it was revolutionary!”

“If there was ever one moment in ministry when Jesus signed His death warrant, it was when He caused a scene in the temple area.”

“I don’t know about you, but I would have loved to see this man so upset.”

“Need an example of what holy anger looks like? Jesus is your man.”

“Jesus works so methodically in the temple. He cleans, He heals, and He accepts.”

“Praise is always the proper response to anything Jesus does. ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!'”

AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions

What were the appropriate uses for the temple according to Scripture?

Why was Jesus so upset with the temple merchants? Are you surprised at all by Jesus’ reaction? If so, why?

What does this holy outburst tell you about Jesus’ character? How does His response theologically align with your understanding of God?

Describe a few things in your community that outrage you and/or could use a good cleaning. What things need to be overturned so to speak? How might Jesus go about doing this? How might you join Him in that effort?

After Jesus cleans house, He restores and accepts several types of people. What does this tell us about Jesus’ perspective on the true purposes of the temple? How are these purposes any different or the same for the Church today when it comes to worship?

In 1 Corinthians 6:19 Paul writes, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” What tables in your temple need to be overturned by Jesus? In what ways has He already cleaned your house?
OTHER WORDS

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” — 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

“I choose goodness… I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I boast. I will confess before I accuse. I choose goodness.” — Max Lucado

“Anger is the anesthetic of the mind.” — C.S. Lewis

“Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.” — Ephesians 4:26 (NRSV)

“Anybody can become angry — that is easy; but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way — that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.” — Aristotle

A WORD OF CHALLENGE

Anger can be an appropriate response when God’s glory and goodness are violated. First, evaluate your current anger management style and, if applicable, ask God for practical ways to deal with your anger. Then identify the things that make God angry and prayerfully find ways to get involved in bringing about restoration and peace to those things.

YOUR WORDS
WEEK 4 – TUESDAY

ANSWERS TO

NO
ONE
OPENING PRAYER | Psalm 86

BEFORE WE START
Who were/are the most influential authority figures in your life (teacher, coach, parent, employer)? Describe their leadership style and the various times, if any, they upset you the most and explain why.

IN THE WORD
Read aloud:
Luke 20:1 – 8, 20 – 26

VIDEO LESSON
View Lesson Four: Tuesday (Answers to No One)

TWEETABLE WORDS
“No matter how good of hearing some people have, the Gospel will still sometimes fall on deaf ears.”

“As the Son of God, Jesus doesn’t owe anyone an explanation for anything He does, and, yet, He consistently offers truth out of love.”

“Trying to trap Jesus is like trying to harness the sun.”

“Caesar is not God!”

“Why is Jesus not afraid of the Romans or the religious elite? Because even the demons see Jesus and shudder.”

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” — 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)

AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions
Why are the chief priests, teachers of the law, and the elders so upset with Jesus?

How would you evaluate Jesus’ communication and/or conflict resolution style when His authority is questioned? What response might you have been tempted to offer?

Why do you think Jesus simply didn’t answer their question directly?

What is the intent behind Jesus being asked for His commentary on paying taxes to Caesar?

How might the crowd have responded to Jesus’ answer in the affirmative? The negative?
Based upon Jason’s viewpoint of this particular passage, what is the significance of Jesus’ response when asked about taxes? Once again, evaluate Jesus’ communication and/or conflict resolution style regarding this subject matter.

What might we learn from Jesus’ responses in both passages when dealing with difficult questions asked of us?

**OTHER WORDS**

“The very word authority has within it the word author. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls.” — R.C. Sproul

“Authority exercised with humility, and obedience accepted with delight are the very lines along which our spirits live.” — C.S. Lewis

“God is completely sovereign. God is infinite in wisdom. God is perfect in love. God in His love always wills what is best for us. In His wisdom He always knows what is best, and in His sovereignty He has the power to bring it about.” — Jerry Bridges

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” — Colossians 1:15 – 17 (NIV)

**A WORD OF CHALLENGE**

This week, identify the different areas of authority that you possess. Evaluate your current management style and discover new ways to wield your influence in a way that mirrors the example of Christ and then act upon them.
OPENING PRAYER
Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. — United Methodist Hymnal

BEFORE WE START
“What’s for dinner?” That’s one of the most popular questions in the daily lives of many families today. What’s your favorite food and where do you enjoy eating the most? Home or away? Why?

IN THE WORD
Read aloud:
Mark 14:12 – 26

VIDEO LESSON
View Lesson Five:
Thursday (Redefines Religion)

TWEETABLE WORDS
#FridayToFriday
“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” — John 1:29 (NIV)
“Whenever you leave the table of the Lord, you will always have a song in your heart.”
“Like when you sit in front of a fire in winter — you are just there in front of the fire. You don’t have to be smart or anything. The fire warms you.” — Desmond Tutu

AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions
What is the historical significance of the Passover meal and the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:1 – 13, 21 – 28)?

Imagine reclining at the table with Jesus and His disciples. Describe how you would have felt had you been with Jesus during this Passover meal.

Jesus uses a simple meal to communicate a divine mystery. Why do you think Jesus uses bread and wine to symbolize His body and blood?

In light of Jeremiah 31:31 – 32, what is the New Covenant that Jesus is establishing at this Passover Meal?

What does communion mean to you?

In Sermon 101, John Wesley writes, “It is the duty of every Christian to receive the Lord’s Supper as often as he can.” Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

How do you feel when you approach the Lord’s Table? Describe a few of the spiritual benefits of taking communion.
OTHER WORDS

“The deepest level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless...beyond speech...beyond concept.” — Thomas Merton

“Christianity is not a formula but the Person of Jesus Himself.” — Malcolm Smith

“Today Jesus Christ is being dispatched as the Figurehead of a Religion, a mere example. He is that, but he is infinitely more; He is salvation itself. He is the Gospel of God.” — Oswald Chambers

“The Eucharist is the Church at her best.” — Gabriel Moran

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.” — John Wesley

“Out of the darkness of my life...I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves upon earth.” — J.R.R. Tolkien

A WORD OF CHALLENGE

Take time to invite Christ to your kitchen or dining room table. Find ways to make Him the central feature of your meal this week.

YOUR WORDS
OPENING PRAYER

Savior of the world, what have You done to deserve this? And what have we done to deserve You? Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon, You wait for death, and look for us, for us whose sin has crucified You. To the mystery of undeserved suffering, You bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done; open our eyes to see what You are doing now, as, through wood and nails, You disempower our depravity and transform us by Your grace. Amen

BEFORE WE START

What does the cross mean to you? What does it symbolize?

IN THE WORD

Read aloud:

VIDEO LESSON

View Lesson Six:
Friday (Opens Paradise)

TWEETABLE WORDS

“Today you will be with me in paradise.” This was Jesus’ response to the thief who asked for Jesus to remember him. Discuss the implications of Jesus’ promise as it relates to our understanding of the process that leads to salvation. How would you explain Jesus’ response in the context of time?

#FridayToFriday

“It’s at the Place of the Skull where pain and paradise meet.”

“The pain of the mind is worse than the pain of the body.” — Syrus

“Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42 (NIV)

“Jesus keep me near the cross, because when I’m near the cross, I’ve already set one foot in paradise.”

“The cross of Christ is the new tree of life.”

AFTERWORD | Explore the following questions

Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?

Imagine yourself at the foot of the cross. Paint the scene in your mind. What is your initial reaction to the soldiers dividing Jesus’ clothes by the casting of lots and to the thief who is mocking Jesus?

We profess that Jesus is the Son of God, a full and equal member of the Trinity. Wrestle with the theological implications of Jesus dying on the cross.

What subtle or great ironies are inherently present on the day of Jesus’ crucifixion?
Compare and contrast Psalm 22:16 – 18, as well as Isaiah 53:12, with the events described within Luke 23:32 – 43.

How would you communicate the crucifixion of Christ to nonbelievers?

OTHER WORDS

“Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.” — Plato

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give right to eat from the tree of life, which is the paradise of God.” — Revelation 2:7 (NIV)

“Jesus keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary’s mountain.” — Fanny J. Crosby

“Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Love does not send others in its place. Love comes itself…the cross is not a picture of God. This was God Himself.” — John Austin Baker

A WORD OF CHALLENGE

Memorize this prayer today. Recite it every morning this week.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Christ. May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us. — St. Patrick
Over the next few weeks we are going to examine a few of Jesus’ final days. A handful of scriptural snapshots reveal to us Jesus’ revolutionary actions and teachings as He willingly embraces His trajectory to the cross. If you’re looking for an example of what to do and say to get yourself crucified — Jesus is your man.

The four Gospels teach us that Jesus officially begins His preparation for burial on the Friday He enters Bethany and claims His work finished the following Friday in Jerusalem while dying on the cross. And although the Gospel evangelists don’t say one word about what Jesus is doing on Saturday or Wednesday, these eight days are worthy of our utmost attention and reflection, for in this brief period of time (from Friday to Friday), Jesus revolutionized the world in eternally significant ways.

I pray you will approach each day with open minds and make your way through this study with a sense of amazement about who Jesus is and what He accomplished in just eight days.