



HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL





Palm Sunday – The King Who Comes Gently

Primary Text – Matthew 21:6–11 (NKJV)

Matthew 21:1–11 | Mark 11:1–11 | Luke 19:28–44 | John 12:12–19 | Zechariah 9:9 | Psalm 118:25–26

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” 11 So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from

Your Reflection on the Text

What Was Happening

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Jesus enters Jerusalem during Passover week. The city is crowded with pilgrims and anticipation is high. By riding a donkey into the city, Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 and publicly reveals Himself as the promised King.

What Jesus Was Doing

Jesus intentionally presents Himself as the Messiah. Yet His arrival reveals a kingdom very different from what many expected. He comes not as a conquering warrior, but as a humble King whose victory will come through sacrifice.

Lessons to Take Away

- Praise must be rooted in surrender, not just excitement.
- Many people celebrate Jesus for what they hope He will do rather than who He truly is.
- Jesus deserves more than momentary admiration—He deserves lifelong devotion.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as the crowds welcomed You into Jerusalem, I welcome You into my life today. Guard my heart from shallow praise that celebrates You only when circumstances are favorable. Teach me to worship You with sincerity and surrender. Help me honor You not just with words but with obedience. As this Holy Week begins, prepare my heart to understand more deeply the sacrifice You made for me. Let my life declare, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” Amen.



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Monday – Cleansing the Temple

Primary Text – Matthew 21:12–17 (NKJV)

*Matthew 21:12–17 | Mark 11:12–19 | Luke 19:45–48 | Isaiah 56:7 |
Jeremiah 7:11*

12 Then Jesus went into the temple [a]of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Your Reflection on the Text

What Was Happening

When Jesus enters the temple courts, He finds worship corrupted by commerce and exploitation. What was intended to be a sacred space for prayer had become a place of business and profit.

What Jesus Was Doing

Jesus restores the purpose of the temple. By overturning tables and



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confronting corruption, He declares that worship must honor God rather than convenience or greed.

Lessons to Take Away

- ⇒ God cares deeply about the purity of worship.
- ⇒ Spiritual renewal often begins with cleansing.
- ⇒ Prayer is meant to be central to our relationship with God.

Prayer

Lord, search my heart today. Remove anything in me that dishonors You or distracts from genuine worship. Cleanse my thoughts, motives, and desires so that my life becomes a place where Your presence is welcomed. Teach me to seek You in prayer, to honor You with sincerity, and to approach You with reverence. May my heart truly become a house of prayer. Amen.



Tuesday – Empty Religion

Primary Text – Matthew 23:25-28 (NKJV)

*Matthew 21:23–23:39 | Matthew 24:1–25:46 | Mark 11:20–13:37
| Luke 20:1–21:38 | John 12:20–50 | Psalm 110:1 | Deuteronomy 6:4–5 | Leviticus 19:18*

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Your Reflection on the Text



What Was Happening

Jesus is in the temple during His final week, surrounded by crowds, disciples, and religious leaders. The scribes and Pharisees—respected, visible, and influential—had built a system of religion that looked righteous on the outside but lacked true devotion to God on the inside.

What Jesus Was Doing

Jesus publicly confronts and exposes their hypocrisy. He shifts the focus from external performance to internal purity. Through a series of “woes,” He calls out their pride, self-righteousness, and spiritual blindness—warning both them and the people not to confuse religious appearance with genuine righteousness.

Lessons to Take Away

- ➔ External behavior without internal transformation is empty religion.
- ➔ True righteousness begins in the heart and flows outward.
- ➔ Spiritual pride blinds us to our own brokenness.

Prayer

Father, Lord, search me from the inside out. Don't let me settle for looking right while being wrong within. Cleanse my heart, renew my spirit, and make my life authentic before You. Help me to live in truth, not just appearance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Wednesday – The Betrayal

Primary Text – Luke 22:3–6 (NKJV)

Matthew 26:1–16 | Mark 14:1–11 | Luke 22:1–6 | Psalm 41:9 | Zechariah 11:12–13

3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

Your Reflection on the Text



What Was Happening

As the pressure around Jesus builds, the spotlight shifts to Judas... not just what he did, but why he did it. Scripture gives us clues, but not a single, simple answer.

Judas was more than a traitor, he was conflicted:

- A thief? John 12:6 reveals that Judas handled the money and was stealing from it. Greed had already taken root before betrayal ever showed up.
- Disappointed? Judas may have expected a political Messiah—one who would overthrow Rome. When Jesus kept talking about suffering instead of ruling, disillusionment could have set in.
- A zealot mindset? Some scholars suggest Judas may have tried to force Jesus' hand, pushing Him into a moment where He would finally reveal His power.
- Influenced spiritually? Luke 22:3 says Satan entered him, but that didn't happen in a vacuum. It suggests a heart that had already been drifting.

So what's happening here is not just a betrayal... it's a slow unraveling of a man who walked with Jesus but never fully surrendered to Him.

Judas didn't fall in a moment... He drifted over time.



Lessons to Take Away

- You can walk with Jesus publicly and still drift from Him privately.
- Unchecked issues (greed, disappointment, unmet expectations) can open the door to greater failure.
- What you expect Jesus to be can affect how you respond to who He actually is.
- The enemy exploits the doors we leave open.

Prayer

Lord, search my heart and reveal anything in me that is drifting away from You. Don't let hidden issues grow into open failure. Where there is disappointment, heal it. Where there is temptation, guard me. Where there is selfish desire, correct me.

Help me not just to walk with You outwardly, but to be fully surrendered to You inwardly. Close every door I've left open to the enemy, and strengthen my commitment to trust You, even when I don't understand You.

Keep me faithful, keep me humble, and keep me near. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Thursday – The Last Supper

Primary Text – Luke 22:19–20 (NKJV)

Matthew 26:17–75 | Mark 14:12–72 | Luke 22:7–71 | John 13:1–18:27 | Exodus 12:1–14 | Psalm 116:12–13 | 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

Your Reflection on the Text

What Was Happening

Jesus gathers His disciples for the Passover meal and establishes the Lord’s Supper as a lasting reminder of His sacrifice. He is preparing His disciples to understand that His death will not be defeat, but the foundation of their salvation.



What Jesus Was Doing

At the table, Jesus is interpreting His death before it happens. In the middle of Passover, He shifts the focus from the lamb in Egypt to Himself as the Lamb.

When He says, “given for you” and “shed for you,” He is making it clear:

- The cross is not an accident, it is intentional.
- His death is not just an event, it is substitutionary.
- The new covenant is not built on law, but on His sacrifice.

Jesus centers everything on His death. Before nails ever touch His hands, He declares that His body will be given and His blood will be shed... for them.

Lessons to Take Away

- The cross is central to the Christian faith.
- Salvation is personal—given for you, shed for you.
- Communion reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice.
- The new covenant is secured through His blood.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your body and shedding Your blood for my salvation. Help me remember Your sacrifice with humility and gratitude. As I reflect on this sacred moment, deepen my appreciation for the price You paid and strengthen my commitment to follow You faithfully. Amen.

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Friday – The Cross

Primary Text – Mark 15:24 (NIV)

Matthew 27:1–66 | Mark 15:1–47 | Luke 23:1–56 | John 18:28–19:42 | Isaiah 52:13–53:12 | Psalm 22 | Psalm 69 | Zechariah 12:10

24 And they crucified Him.

Your Reflection on the Text



What Was Happening

In one short, almost understated line—“and they crucified Him”—the most horrific and holy moment in history takes place. Mark doesn't describe it; he declares it.

But the deeper question is: Who crucified Him?

- Pilate and the Roman soldiers: the political power carried it out.
- Caiaphas and the Jews: the religious system rejected and demanded it.
- Judas: betrayal set it in motion.
- Us: our sin made the cross necessary.
- God: the Father ordained it as part of His redemptive plan.
- Christ Himself: He willingly laid down His life.

This was not one group acting alone... This was human sin, religious corruption, political pressure, and divine purpose all meeting at the cross.

What Jesus Was Doing

Jesus was not a victim—He was a sacrifice. While others were acting against Him, He was acting for us.

- They crucified Him... but He gave Himself.
- They took His life... but He laid it down.
- They meant it for evil... but God meant it for salvation.

At the cross, Jesus was accomplishing what no one else could... Bearing sin, satisfying justice, and securing redemption.

Lessons to Take Away

- ➔ Jesus finished the work required for salvation.
- ➔ The cross demonstrates the depth of God's love.
- ➔ Redemption was accomplished through sacrifice.



Prayer

Lord Jesus, as I reflect on the cross today, help me grasp the magnitude of what You endured for my sake. Thank You for bearing my sin, my guilt, and my shame. Let the reality of Your sacrifice shape the way I live, love, and worship. May I never treat lightly the grace that was purchased through Your suffering. Amen.



Saturday – Waiting in the Silence

Primary Text – Luke 23:56 (NKJV)

Matthew 27:57–66 | Mark 15:42–47 | Luke 23:50–56 | John 19:38–42 | Lamentations 3:25–33 | Psalm 88 | 1 Peter 3:18–20

Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

Your Reflection on the Text



What Was Happening

The women who loved Jesus had watched Him die. They saw where His body was laid, and they began preparing spices to properly anoint Him.

But before they could finish what they started, the Sabbath came. And in obedience to God's command, they stopped... and rested.

They had plans to honor a dead Savior... But they paused because of a living command. They didn't yet understand the resurrection was coming, but they still chose obedience in the silence.

This is the tension of Holy Saturday:

- Grieving... but still obeying.
- Confused... but still faithful.
- Waiting... but still trusting.

What Jesus Was Doing

Though unseen, God's plan continues moving toward resurrection.

Lessons to Take Away

- Waiting seasons test our faith.
- God's silence does not mean His absence.
- Hope remains even when circumstances look final.

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Prayer

God, when I find myself in seasons of waiting and uncertainty, remind me that You are still at work. Help me trust Your timing even when answers are delayed. Strengthen my faith so that I remain hopeful and steadfast, knowing that Your promises never fail. Amen.



Closing Reflection

Church family, this week we've walked with Jesus from the praise of Palm Sunday through the tension of His teaching, the betrayal of Judas, the table of the communion, and the agony of the cross, all the way to the silence of the tomb.

We have seen His heart, His sacrifice, and His obedience, and now we stand in the in-between, knowing that what looked like the end was not the end at all. So don't lose heart in the silence, because what God is about to do changes everything. I can't wait to celebrate with you this Sunday.

- *Pas*

