

THE PASSION OF JESUS



"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN, AND THE POWER OF SIN IS THE LAW; BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. ~ I CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

Reading, Reflection & Prayer

*THIS IS A DAILY DEVOTIONAL TO LEAD YOU THROUGH THE WEEK LEADING UP TO EASTER.

Sunday: The Day of
The Triumphant Entry

Study Passages: Matthew
21:1-17, Mark 11:1-11,
Luke 19:29-44, John
12:12-19.



Monday: The Day of Cleansing and
Judgment

Study Passages: Matthew 21:18-22,
Mark 11:12-19, Luke 19:45-48

Tuesday: The Day of Confrontation and
Teaching

Study Passages: Matthew 21:23-26:14,
Mark 11:20-14:11, Luke 20:1-22:6.

Wednesday: The Day of Solitude

Study Passages: The Scriptures are
silent about the events of this day. A
great day for extended times of
solitude, prayer, and reflection.

Thursday: The Day of Feasting,
Farewells, and Prayer

Study Passages: Matthew 26:17-35,
Mark 14:12-42, Luke 22:7-46; John
13-14.

Maundy* Thursday

*From the Latin word "mandatum" or "commandment",
focuses on the Lord's Supper and the new commandment.
This refers to the command Jesus gave his disciples after
washing their feet. He said: "A new commandment I give
you: love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

The Passion of Christ

Good Friday: The Day of the Cross

Today we will focus on the meaning of the cross and Christ's death. The cross was the goal of Jesus' life. He knew that this was why he came to earth in the first place. When he set his face toward Jerusalem; he knew that his journey would end in the cross. Yet, he went forward to Jerusalem because that was his calling and it was the will of the Father that he go.

The death of Christ is extremely important for us. Through His death, He satisfied the wrath of God. His sacrifice provided the atonement for sin. But, the death of Christ has cosmic effects as well. Colossians 1.15-20 tells us that the blood of the cross was responsible for God reconciling the world to himself. John 3.16-17 states the same thing. This is what was happening in the death of Christ. This was his great work and he finished it as John tells us in chapter 19.30. As you reflect today in family and private worship, contemplate the meaning of the cross of Christ. Think about the vastness of his work, and how he obediently fulfilled his calling.

Scripture for reflection:

Colossians 1.15-20, John 18-19, Luke 22-23, Mark 14-15, Matthew 26-27

Holy Saturday: The Day of Absence

Today is the day that Jesus rested in the tomb, and is the day the church prepares for his resurrection on Sunday morning. It is a very solemn day for the church. Today the body of Christ does not take communion out of remembrance of the death of Christ and



anticipation of the Resurrection. You see, if Jesus had not been resurrected, than the events of Good Friday would have been useless, and that is why this is a sad day for the church. However, it is also the day of preparation for the resurrection.

On this Saturday, we should gather in private and family worship to contemplate the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. And the meaning of his resurrection cannot ever be truly exhausted. Jesus' resurrection secured our forgiveness of sin. It also secured us a place in heaven when we die. However, these are only by-products as Jesus' resurrection ensured our own resurrection at the return of Christ. Then we will have a new bodily life in the renewed heavens and renewed earth where righteousness will dwell, and the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth like the sea.

His resurrection was the beginning of the new creation, and if we belong to him, then we have been baptized into this new creation in the present. While this may be complicated and we do not normally think in these categories, this is what Scripture reveals to us repeatedly. His resurrection is also a source of great power for our lives, because we now know that we have the guarantee of an eternal bodily existence with Jesus as his people. As you prepare for Easter tomorrow, think about the impact of Jesus' resurrection and what it means for your life. This should lead to an attitude of worshipful thanksgiving.

Scripture for reflection:

Romans 6, Colossians 3, Matthew 27-28, John 20-21, Luke 24, Mark 15-16



Easter Sunday The Day of Victory

As you prepare for corporate worship this morning, do your best not to become distracted by the little things that can go wrong. Rather, focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the promise of your future hope. Take a few moments to call to mind the events of the past two days and remember what Jesus has done for us. Let this prepare your heart and mind, filling you with great joy and gratitude, as you gather as the church for the worship of our risen King.

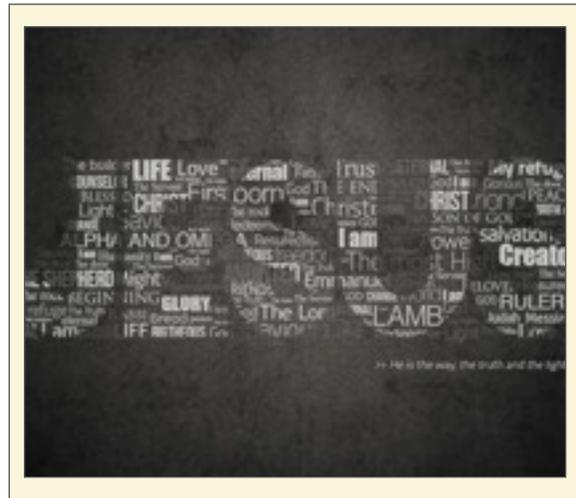
Today is the day that makes all the difference, because over 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ burst forth from the spiced tomb on Easter morning, and he launched the project of God's new creation. This is one of the high points of God's mission; our mission is empowered by the resurrection of Jesus as we anticipate the final new creation. And this is possible because of the resurrection of Jesus and his gift of the Holy Spirit. May the truth of the resurrection resonate in our hearts now and forever more, Amen.

Scripture for reflection:
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on

earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created



through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.