

The Road To The Cross (Part 6)

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Blessings everyone and welcome to our Palm Sunday Service. Today is the day we celebrate Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. With shouts and praise and waving palm branches in the air they welcomed the savior who came in the name of the Lord

Luke 19:35-40 New International Version (NIV)

35 They brought {the colt} to Jesus, threw their cloaks on {it} and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[a]
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Today, I want us to welcome Jesus into this place, into our homes, into our hearts with as much joy and enthusiasm as they welcomed him that day. So, join us in worship and let's give Jesus the glory that is due his name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Services cancelled through April 30
2. Easter - Online services and Easter At Home (Pastor Lindsey)
3. Stay Connected - make sure you are connected with our Facebook page and group, our YouTube channel, our website and via email (Check your spam). Church offices open
4. Food Pantry still operating. We have pickups almost every day. We can always use healthy volunteers (not at-risk people) to help unload, sort and pack the food.
5. Giving has continued in a healthy manner via online, people mailing their gifts in or dropping them off here at the church (Thank You for Your Faithfulness)
6. KEEP FOLLOWING AND TRUSTING GOD

This morning a good friend sent me a video of the hospital in GA that people were outside praising Jesus. I shared this with the girls. Later in the day Way Maker was on Alexa and we were talking about this Virus. I said to Ellison, that God has brought us to our knees in hopes that we as a nation will return back to Him from our busy lives. Ellison got upset and after she calmed down she started talking. She didn't know it, but I was videoing her. Oh how God can use the innocence of a 10 year old to remind us all that God's got us!! #faithoverfear

For several weeks' we have been following Jesus as He travelled The Road to The Cross

We have learned that this road...

1. Is Paved with CHALLENGING TRUTH...
2. Purchased the FREEDOM of our FORGIVENESS...
3. Must be travelled with FAITH NOT FEAR...
4. Will ENCOUNTER STORMS along the way...
5. WORSHIPPING on the Journey
6. CHOICES must be made

We've already read the scripture describing Jesus entry into Jerusalem, the event that begins what we call the week of Passion. But what else was happening that day?

Let's go back to the Old Testament book of exodus for just a minute and then establish a quick timeline of the week leading up to Jesus crucifixion and resurrection

The Choosing of The Lamb

Ex 12:1-31

2 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that **on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.** ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ **Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.** ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ **That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.** ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire — head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; **it is the Lord's Passover.** ¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn — both men and animals — and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a

sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord – a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it **from the first day through the seventh** must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat – that is all you may do. ¹⁷ "**Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt.** Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. ¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. ²⁰ Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread." ²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. ²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, '**It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord**, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

²⁸ The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. ²⁹ **At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested.

Short timeline of the passion week

I've spent more than 30 years digging into the events of the Passion week. At least once each year I revisit this study and piece together a timeline of the events. Many of you have heard me do in depth teachings about this timeline. Today, I don't have time to go into detail, but I did want to review a brief timeline of those events.

From the passage in Exodus, as well as other Old Testament Texts we know that

- On the 10th of Nissan (first month) the lamb was chosen
- They were to take the lamb home for 4 days
- Then on the 14th at twilight they were to slaughter the lamb and put its blood on the door post
- Finally, they were to consume the entire lamb in a meal that evening

Again many who have studied the events of Passover, including passages in the Talmud (a collection of ancient Jewish teachings) suggest that the first Passover occurred on a Wednesday (Wednesday evening as Wednesday was becoming Thursday) In the middle of the night as the text says (Thursday night) the order was given for them to be set free and Thursday morning the left Egypt). Thus God established the feast of Passover and the feast of unleavened bread to be celebrated annually always beginning on the 10th of Nissan with the choosing of the Lamb, followed by the sacrifice of the lamb on the evening of the 14th (Passover) and the initiation of the feast of unleavened bread beginning with a sabbath on the 15th.

Of course, it wouldn't always happen on a Saturday, Wednesday, and Thursday but I believe the first one did and so would have others throughout the centuries and I believe that in the year of Jesus crucifixion it repeated that same pattern.

That means that the Lamb would have been chosen on Saturday (during daylight hours) remember Saturday started the previous evening as the sun went down. This would also make the day they choose the lamb a sabbath day. The question is would the Jewish people been allowed to select a lamb on the Sabbath a day of rest. The answer is YES.

Now don't get too caught up on days of the week, especially as you may have been traditionally taught about them in regard to the events of Jesus Last week. In truth it doesn't matter what day of the week it was because that doesn't impact the truth of the event that took place, nor does it negate the sacrificial atoning work that Jesus did on the cross.

What we do know for sure about the days of that week is that the women went to the tomb very early on the first day of the week (Sunday)

By adding the numbers up, we also know that if the lamb was chosen on the 10th, kept for 4 days and sacrificed on the 14th, and that Jesus was in the tomb 3 days and 3 nights (not partial days as some try to make it work)

Matthew 12:40 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

that 4 plus 3 equals seven so 7 days (one week) after the lamb was chosen (Jesus) He rose from the grave.

So, based on the quick review here is our timeline

- Saturday 10th of Nissan - choose the lamb (triumphal entry)
- Wednesday 14th of Nissan - sacrifice the lamb at sunset. (Crucifixion of Jesus down before sunset)
- Thursday - 15th of Nissan high holy day sabbath first day of unleavened bread (the first of two sabbaths of that week)
- Friday - before sunset spices and anointing oils purchased by the women

Mark 16:1

16 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Luke 23:56

⁵⁶ They returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

- Friday night - regular sabbath begins ladies rest
- Saturday sabbath continues. Jesus rises from the grave Saturday night. After sunset having been in the tomb for three full. Days and nights
- Sunday morning early the women find an empty tomb

Now what I want us to focus on today centers around the choices that must be made on the road to the cross, specifically the choices regarding the Lamb (or our Lamb - Jesus The Messiah)

There are 4 choices that were made and 4 choices each of us must make about Jesus

1. **The Choice of the spotless lamb - our belief** that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God. Gods only son, who came to deliver us from death, in whom there was no sin, and who became our once and forever sacrifice.

There are many choices out there, but only one Jesus.

John 14:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. **The Choice to take the lamb home to live with you** - making Jesus a part of our lives not just someone we believe in. Having a relationship, with him. Incorporating him into our everyday lives.

Luke 12:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

8 "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. **9** But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.

3. **The Choice to use the lamb's blood for protection** - personal repentance and acceptance of Jesus work in our lives

Hebrews 9:22 New International Version (NIV)

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

And I would say without the application of the blood there is no forgiveness. It wasn't enough that the lamb's blood was shed, the people had to take that blood and apply it to the door posts of their houses. It isn't enough that Jesus blood was shed on the cross for us, we must personally and individually take that blood and apply it to the doorposts of our own hearts. By faith we repent of our sins and accept the work that Christ has done for us.

Acts 3:19 New International Version (NIV)

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

And in Acts 17:30 we read of Paul's words to the people of Athens telling them that God...

Acts 17:30 New Living Translation (NLT)

30 "...commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.

4. The Choice to consume the entire lamb - our need to continue to choose Jesus everyday of our lives. All of who he is and what he wants for our lives.

There are so many who only want to take certain parts of who Jesus, what He said and what He calls us to be. They take what is comfortable or easy or suited to their personal tastes. But Jesus calls for us to take all of Him.

When Jesus initiated what we now call the Lord's supper He said...

Take, eat this, do this in remembrance of me... Take drink this in remembrance of me for by so doing you show the Lord's death until he come.

Jesus didn't say nibble at this, take a few sips. He was saying... Consume me and continue to do this...

That's why I love John's gospel and his use of the word BELIEVE in various forms and tenses. In fact, John himself says that he wrote his gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ.

Many have noted his use of the present tense of the form believe in the following passage.

John 3:14-18

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that **whoever believes in him may have eternal life**. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Such passages speak about something that is happening **now**, about a **present**, an **active**, state and not about something that happened once in the past. They speak about a present reality instead of a past history.

The basic conclusion is the following: as a rule, the present tense in ancient Greek denotes **duration**. It can also denote something that is happening currently in the present and will not happen again, but this is an exception to the rule and it becomes very obvious from the context. **The rule is that the present tense of a verb denotes duration, i.e. denotes that something "goes on" happening.** Applying this rule, John 3:14-18 would read¹:

John 3:14-18

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that **whoever goes on believing in him may have eternal life.** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever goes on believing in him should not perish but have eternal life.** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **Whoever goes on believing in him is not condemned**, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Colossians chapter 1 has a similar message from the Apostle Paul

Colossians 1:21-23 New Living Translation (NLT)

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. **22** Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.