

"A Week to Remember"



*"Hosanna to the Son of David"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord!" "Hosanna in the
highest heaven!" Mathew 21:9*

"7. The Ministry of Jesus Christ"

There are very few references in the Bible to the life of Christ before his Baptism, but in the last week of his life before his crucifixion, there are so many references that we almost know what he did every day.

I can believe that it is now a Holy Week for us, but as I studied I wondered if it was for Christ and his disciples. I believe he knew what was going to happen.

There were times during his ministry when he asked the person healed not to tell anyone. That wasn't the case here. He was very positive and sent two men to get a donkey with her colt with the instructions to say to anyone who questioned *"The Lord needs them."* He allowed the people to put their coats and palms on the path and rode on the

donkey as they proclaimed him Lord and even King which really upset the chief priests and others who were very concerned about his power and followers.

Jesus went into the temple courts and drove out all the money changers. He told them *"My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."* He healed the blind and the lame as they came to him in the temple. The children were saying *"Hosanna to the Son of David."*

The authorities questioned him and he just said *"Yes, I hear them. And haven't you read in God's Word, 'From the mouths of children and babies I'll furnish a place of praise?'"* He left for the city of Bethany for the night, but he wasn't done.

Early on Monday morning he saw a fig tree and because it had only leaves and no fruit, he cursed the tree. The disciples were confused as I think we would have been. He told them *"Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."* Matthew 21:21-22

He went back to the temple and the chief priests and elders questioned him *"By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. 'And who gave you this authority?'"* He gave no direct answer but told them stories, or parables of the two sons, the tenants, and the wedding banquet.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

They decided it was time to lay plans to get rid of him. They tried to trick him, but that didn't work. The Pharisees asked him which was the greatest commandment. They kept questioning him and asked whose son is the Messiah. But his answers only confused them and angered them more and eventually no one dared to ask him any more questions.

As he was relaxing for a while and sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples began to question, but they were also confused by his answers. Matthew 24. He told them more stories (parables) but they didn't understand. He told them about his triumphal return, but how were they to understand.

***"When the world says,
'Give up,'
Hope whispers,
'Try it one more time.'"***

Jesus gave several warnings. When he had finished the parables with his disciples, he told them. *"As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."* Matthew 26:2

When he was visiting Simon the Leper, a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume which she poured on his head. The disciples were upset and asked why this was being wasted when it could be sold and the money given to the poor.

Again he told them *“Why are you both-
ering this woman? She has done a
beautiful thing to me. The poor you will
always have with you,^f but you will not
always have me. When she poured this
perfume on my body, she did it to pre-
pare me for burial.”*

With knowledge of the plans of the
priests and the elders Judas went to
them and offered to betray Christ for
thirty pieces of silver.

The evening at the Festival of Unleav-
ened Bread, or the last supper as we
have come to know it, Christ said to
them *“Truly I tell you, one of you will
betray me.”* They responded *“Surely
you don’t mean me, Lord?”* And when
Judas had taken the piece of
bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jes
us said to Judas, *“What you are about
to do, do quickly.”* John 13:27 He broke
bread and drank wine with them and
said *“For this is my blood of the new
testament, which is shed for many for
the remission of sins. But I say unto
you, I will not drink henceforth of this
fruit of the vine, until that day when I
drink it new with you in my Father’s
kingdom.”* He went to the garden to
pray and took three disciples with him.
Judas arrived with his men. Jesus ques-
tioned their coming with swords in the
night because he had been with them
daily in the temple earlier in the week.
Then all the disciples left, except Peter,
and they led him to the high priest. Pe-
ter followed at a distance. As they ques-
tioned him the high priest said *“I
charge you under oath by the living
God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the
Son of God.”* ‘You have said so,’ Jesus
replied. *‘But I say to all of you: From*

*now on you will see the Son of Man sit-
ting at the right hand of the Mighty
One and coming on the clouds of heav-
en.”* Matthew 26:63-64

The next day they took him to Pilate
who became so frustrated he asked the
people gathered if they wanted Jesus or
Barabbas; they chose Barabbas. Pilot’s
wife had warned him not to get in-
volved, but he had no way out.

Then, they led him to Golgotha to be
crucified. A few of the centurions be-
lieved and said *“Truly, This is the Son
of God”* Above his head was a sign say-
ing *“This is Jesus, The King of the
Jews.”*

He forgave the people, offered for-
giveness to the one thief, asked John to
take care of his mother, and seems to
think God had forsaken him, then he is
thirty, and knows his mission is fin-
ished, and offers himself back to his Fa-
ther and so we have forgiveness for our
sins and the promise of glory.



Prayer: Father, Thank You for coming
to our earth and sacrificing so much
for us. Thank You for the promise
that someday we will be with You
when all fear and suffering is gone
and we will rejoice with You. Father,
I thank you for those who took confi-
dence and spread Your message to all
the world and for our knowledge that
You are with us always. Amen

1. Why did Christ allow them to treat
him as a King on Palm Sunday?
2. Do you think you would have been
as confused as the disciples? Are
we sometimes confused today by
things that happen?
3. Do we have faith to move moun-
tains? What does that mean to
you?
4. Would we have stayed with Christ
through the crucifixion like Nico-
demus and Joseph of Arimathea,
or would we have run like the dis-
ciples?
5. Why did Peter deny knowing
Christ?

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*“Father, forgive them; for they know
not what they do.
Today you will be with me in paradise.
Woman, behold, thy son!
Son, behold, thy mother!
My God, my God, why hast thou
forsaken me?
I thirst.
It is finished.
Father, into thy hands I commend my
spirit.”*