

Thursday in Jerusalem

Jesus and his disciples have come to Jerusalem. It has been some week! Crowds cheering as Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus preaching and declaring the Kingdom was at hand. Turning over the table of the corrupt money changers in the temple.

Millions of Jews descended upon Jerusalem from all over the world. They, like Jesus and His disciples, were there to celebrate Passover. In Mark 14:12-16, Jesus directs 2 of His disciples to go into Jerusalem and meet a man carrying a pitcher. They were to follow him to a house where the upper room had been prepared for Passover.

The disciples were to prepare for the Passover celebration. This would have involved searching for any leaven, and standing in line to sacrifice the lamb, and seeing that it was cooked and obtaining the other elements of the Passover meal.

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While Jesus was preparing Himself for the cross, the disciples were arguing who would be the greatest in the Kingdom. In His perfect grace, Jesus sat Judas beside Him. This was a great honor as people were ranked by position around the table.

Judas had already been paid to betray Jesus. Like Joseph, Jesus was betrayed for the cost of a common slave.

Jesus knew that disappointment that Judas was experiencing. Jesus offered him a chance to turn and repent when He announced that one of them would betray Him. Jesus announced that it was the one He dipped with. This may have been where bitter herbs were placed in the unleavened bread, dipped and eaten. Jesus symbolically said He would take Judas' bitterness in Himself. Judas walked away from the meal, knowing that Jesus knew his heart.

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While the disciple continued to argue about who was the most important, it came time to ceremonially wash. This normally would have been washing your hands to the elbows. Jesus instead got up and washed the disciples feet. This was the job of a slave and Jesus' humility was in sharp contrast to the attitude of the disciples.

Jesus explained to Peter that this was not the washing of salvation, but a need for daily cleansing. We all have a sin nature and live in a fallen world. We are going to get dirty spiritually. We do not lose our salvation, but we need to ask forgiveness and make changes.

Jesus goes on to say that we are to wash each other's feet. This means that we need to help one another overcome the sin issues in our lives.

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Jesus during the meal took two of the elements and applied them to Himself.

Jesus took the unleavened bread. Pure and free of leaven (sin) and said this was His body. That He also was without sin. He said that body was about to be broken for them.

There were four cups in the Passover meal. The third cup represented that "God will redeem us". Jesus took that cup and said it was the New Covenant purchased through His blood.

We are to do this often in Remembrance of Him!

The Garden

After celebrating Passover, Jesus led His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane.

There He prayed that if there was any other way, to take this cup from Him. This most likely was the fifth cup of the Passover Seder which represented God's wrath on sin.

Jesus concluded by saying "not my will, but thine be done".

The Arrest

Judas having been paid by the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus, brought guards and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. This was the ultimate betrayal. To be betrayed by a close friend with a gesture of love and affection.

Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate.

The trials were illegal and involved false witnesses.

Pilate summed it up when he said, "I find no fault in Him". Jesus was without sin, but He became sin for

us

The Trial

Jesus did not deserve to be tried. He was perfect and without sin. In reality, we are the ones who deserve to stand trial. We are the ones who have sinned and committed treason against the God.

Jesus took our place, our guilt, our punishment. He knew that this was the only way to save us, so He did not speak on His own defense. He allowed Himself to be condemned guilty and to be put to death.

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends (John 15:13).

The Crucifixion

Crucifixion was one of the most barbaric ways that man has created to kill others.

Jesus was nailed to the cross at about 9:00 AM in the morning. This was the time of the morning sacrifice. Jesus died at 3:00 PM the same time that the shofar would have sounded announcing the evening sacrifice.

The Crucifixion

While Jesus hung on the cross, many significant events took place.

1. Darkness covered the land from noon to 3:00 pm.
2. The veil in the Temple was ripped in two.
3. An earthquake took place and
4. 500 dead rose from their graves.

The Crucifixion

Jesus made seven statements on the cross, but here we will focus on just one. As Jesus prepared to die, He shouted out, “it is finished!” Dying men do not normally shout, but Jesus was making a victory cry! Our sin had been completely paid for. Our debt was “paid in full” with nothing more to add.

The Grave

Jesus died and needed to be removed from the cross before sundown – the start of the Sabbath.

Joseph of Arimathea laid Jesus in his new unused tomb. Nicodemus used spices to prepare the body.

The religious leaders remembered that Jesus said He would rise the third day. This probably scared them. They convinced Pilate to place a Roman guard outside the tomb. They would have inspected the tomb and insured that Jesus' body had been placed in it.

The Grave

The main point is that Jesus really died. There was no conspiracy of Jesus faking His death.

No one could have stolen the body as it was guarded by professional soldiers.

The wages of sin is death, and Jesus took the penalty for our sin and He died.

But that is not the end of the story...

The Resurrection

Jesus did not remain in the grave. On the third day (Sunday) there was an earthquake and the stone rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. This was not to allow Jesus out, but for the world to look in. Jesus is the source of life, and death and the grave have been conquered!

The Resurrection

When the women arrived in the attempt to anoint the body, they found that Jesus was not in the tomb. There were two angels who declared that Jesus was not there, but that He had risen from the dead.

It took a while, but the disciples caught on that this had been God's plan. Jesus died in our place so we could live in His!

The Resurrection

What about you?

None of us are perfect and that is what God demands to enter into His kingdom. The consequence for sin is death.

Jesus took your place and died for your sin. There is nothing more that you can do.

Your responsibility is to accept Jesus for who He is and what He has done for you.

Will you come to Him today?