

Easter Part 1 - The Path to the Cross | 4/7/19

- Introduction
 - Today we are going to look at several events that took place during the “Passion Week” which led up to his crucifixion and resurrection.
 - **These events were not random, but all had a specific purpose.**
 - We will look at how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy, His anointment, His arrival into Jerusalem and how He predicted His death.
 - Then we will also look at the preparations that Judas Iscariot made which would ultimately lead to Jesus being put to death on the cross.
 - **Numerous events of importance lead up to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We will spend more time on particular circumstances while with others we may only look at briefly.**
- Jesus enters into Jerusalem | Matthew 21:1-11
 - When Jesus came into Jerusalem, this marked the beginning of the end of Jesus’s final time here on Earth before His crucifixion.
 - His time had come to fulfill His great purpose.
 - **Read Matthew 21:1-11**
 - Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy by riding in a donkey and colt.
 - **Jesus throughout His earthly ministry was fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. And here is no exception.**
 - Verse 5 quotes Zechariah 9:9, showing that Jesus was fulfilling prophecy given to the prophet Zechariah.
 - And in the Book of Daniel starting in 9:24 we have “Daniels 70 weeks” which we discussed in Revelation.
 - These are weeks of years which shows that in 483 years there would be the first advent of the Messiah.
 - 483 years from that date happens to be A.D. 30 (10 Nisan) which is this very day.
 - Before Jesus made His way into the city, He told His disciples to go on ahead and bring Him the donkey and colt.
 - **These animals were pre-ordained, and Jesus knew exactly where they were.**
 - This is evident in the conversation the disciples had with those who tended the animals and Jesus told them what to say.
 - **Jesus said to tell them that “The Lord needs them” and that would be sufficient.**
 - These words were powerful, and the owners of the animals allowed His disciples to take them.
 - Mark 11:5-6
 - “And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.”
 - The crowds recognized Jesus as a king and gave him a triumphal entry.
 - The crowds saw Jesus for who He was and gave him a triumphal entry.
 - This is quite fitting knowing that this is His last week of ministry on Earth and will soon be crucified.
 - **The people showed Jesus the utmost respect by laying their cloaks and putting palm branches along the path for His donkey and colt.**
 - This was an act normally reserved for high royalty.
 - 2 Kings 9:13

- **Just after His arrival in Jerusalem, He says His hour has come to be glorified.**
 - John 12:23
 - “And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”
 - **Previously Jesus had said "the hour IS coming," now the hour is "has come."**
 - John 2:4, 4:21,23,7:30,8:20
- **Jesus predicted His death of being “lifted up” and knew of His purpose.**
 - **Read John 12:27-33**
 - **Before the garden of Gethsemane Jesus had already contemplated His coming time for the cross when He stated a question “Father, save me from this hour?”**
 - Jesus knew exactly why he came and what he had to do.
 - At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus said He would be “lifted up” speaking to His crucifixion.
 - This is what Jesus also said to Nicodemus
 - John 3:14
 - “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.”
 - **Now this time had come to be the sacrificial lamb, to die for our sin. To defeat Satan so that he no longer had complete power over us.**
 - John 12:27b
 - “...But for this purpose I have come to this hour.”
 - John 12:31-32
 - “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
 - Colossians 1:13-14
 - “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- Jesus later revealed the exact date and way in which He would die.
 - Matthew 26:1-2
 - “When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”
 - This was no parable. Jesus gave a precise date and way in which He was going to die.
- **Why did Jesus speak on many different occasions to others about His coming death?**
- **The preparation for the betrayal | Luke 22:1-6**
 - Satan during this time also had a plan, a plan to kill Jesus Christ.
 - His tool would be a disciple of Jesus known as Judas Iscariot.
 - **Read Luke 22:1-6**
 - Matthew 26:14-16
 - “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you? And they

paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.”

- Scripture is clear that Satan took him over and used Judas to do his work, to kill Jesus.
- **Interestingly enough while Satan is hoping to put an end to the work of Jesus, we find that even this evil act is part of God’s plan.**
- **Even this act of betrayal by Judas was foretold in the Old Testament, and its completion was fulfilled prophecy.**
 - John 13:18
 - “I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me. I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.
 - This Scripture is Psalms 41:9
 - Psalms 41:9
 - “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.”
- **What do you think about God using Satan’s evil intentions to fulfill His great purpose? Does this still happen today?**
- **Jesus washes the disciple’s feet as a symbol of spiritual cleansing | John 13:1-15**
 - A day before His crucifixion Jesus demonstrates to His disciples an act of humility and selflessness by cleansing the feet of His disciples.
 - **Read John 13:1-15**
 - Jesus knew His hour was approaching
 - In these first verses, Jesus knew the hour was at hand, and within a day He would be crucified.
 - **Jesus having loved His disciples chose to show them an act of love and compassion that symbolizes the spiritual cleansing that would take place in the hearts of all believers in the world.**
 - The Disciples appeared to be taken by this act of Jesus and even refused it initially, but Jesus told them that if He did not cleanse them, then they would not have a share with Jesus.
 - **This is because this symbolized the spiritual cleansing of our hearts when we have faith in Jesus Christ, to cleanse us of our sins.**
 - 1 John 1:7
 - “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**”
 - We cannot cleanse our hearts. This can ONLY be done by Jesus Christ. If He does not cleanse us, we will never be clean.
 - Jesus also told them that at this time they would not understand what He was doing, but after the crucifixion and resurrection, they would.
 - Jesus told His disciples to emulate His actions, to show loving humility to others.
 - **What is significant about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples? How does this act correspond with His sacrifice on the cross?**
- The betrayal at supper | Matthew 26:21-25, John 13:21-30
 - The time had come for Judas Iscariot to carry out his act of betrayal against Jesus.
 - **Read Matthew 26:21-25**
 - John tells us that Satan entered into Judas who then left to start the chain of events that would lead to his crucifixion.

- John 13:27
 - “Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”
- This conversation is interesting as Jesus knew what Judas was going to do and He seems to have made that known to him. However, Judas still carries it out.
- **Jesus's time on earth is now extremely short. Soon He will be arrested in the garden and fulfill His purpose to bear our sins upon the cross.**
- The Lord’s Supper | Matthew 26:26-29
 - And not only was this His last meal but here Jesus established the Lord's Supper.
 - ***Read Matthew 26:26-29***
 - The Lord’s Supper is one of two sacraments established by Jesus Christ.
 - Its purpose is to remind us of His blood that was shed and His body that was beaten so that we might have forgiveness for our sins.
 - This was one of the final acts of Jesus before His death, to make sure that we always remember His sacrifice.
 - *“We won’t dig in-depth into the Lord’s Supper here as it requires a complete lesson in itself.”*