

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

MARCH 24, 2024

INTRO: What would we do if told we have one week left to live? The Gospels give us an account of what Jesus did, knowing He had only one week to live. Matthew and Mark, 1/3 of their Gospels; Luke and John, 1/4 and 1/2 of their Gospels address the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Palm Sunday – JOHN 12:9-19 NLT

Jesus leaves Bethany and enters Jerusalem on a donkey. **ZECH 9:9 NLT** is fulfilled. It's Passover week and 250,000 lambs are being examined for flaws. Jesus will be also. The Jewish leaders want Jesus and Lazarus dead. **JOHN 12:42-43** How sad! Jesus returns to Bethany.

Holy Monday – MK 11:12-14 NLT

Jesus returns to Jerusalem, curses a fig tree, cleanses the temple (**MT. 21:12-17 NLT**). His Father's house is a house of purity, prayer, power, and perfected praise. His temple is not a building (**EPH 2:19-22 NASB**).

Holy Tuesday – MK. 11:20-26

Jesus returns to Jerusalem. Along the way, He teaches the law and prayer of faith and the importance of forgiveness, after they see the fig tree dried up. Some believe the fig tree curse pertained to Israel for not believing on Him. He teaches in the temple and pronounces woes upon the religious leaders (**MT. 23:13, 33**). Olivet discourse: As they leave the temple, the disciples show Him the buildings (**MT. 24:1-4**). Jesus prophesied the future destruction of the temple and end-time events (**DAN. 9:24-27**).
The church is gone.

Holy (Spy) Wednesday – MT. 26:6-16 NLT

Being exhausted, Jesus spends the day resting in anticipation of Passover. Mary anoints Jesus for His burial, and Judas bargains with the Sanhedrin.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Maundy means command or mandate. Jesus celebrates the last supper, and institutes "the Lord's Supper". The Israelites were delivered from Egyptian powers. Now, those who believe on Him can be delivered from the powers of darkness, and law of sin and death.

- After the supper, Jesus washes their feet (except Judas). This teaches us to lovingly, humbly, and sacrificially serve one another.

- Foot washing was considered demeaning and only for slaves. When Jesus removed His outer garment and put a towel around Him, it was the look of a slave (**EX. 21:32 NLT**).
- Jesus teaches the Upper Room discourse (**JOHN 13-17**). He gives a new commandment and reveals the ministry of the Comforter.

Good Friday – MT. 26:36

Jesus prays at the rock. Judas betrays Him. He could've gone elsewhere but didn't (**MT. 26:47-50**). The kiss, a positive I.D. The trials begin (**MK. 14:61-65 NLT**).

- Jesus could've presented a solid defense: Abraham, Moses, Lazarus.
- Legal protocol was ignored: Jesus faced six trials. Three before the religious court and three before the Roman court. No trial during feast time; vote to convict or acquit; a night must pass before a death sentence is carried out; no trial is to be held at night.
- These esteemed leaders slapped Him, beat Him, mocked Him, spit on Him.
- From Pilate, to Herod, to Pilate. After scourging Jesus, Pilate asked if He should release Him. He thought they would show mercy. Instead, they released a murderer (Barabbas).

Conclusion:

The last week Jesus lived on earth was unlike any human ever lived. May we all consider what great sacrifice He made to provide eternal redemption for “whosoever”.