

This week's devotions trace the steps of Jesus from Monday to Resurrection Sunday. We think of this week as Holy Week as we commit ourselves to the wonderful work of Jesus He began by His death, burial and resurrection. Each day let the journey of Jesus fill your heart with a depth of His holiness and power.

MONDAY

On Monday Jesus leaves Bethany and goes back to Jerusalem. On the way he finds a fig tree that was bearing no fruit and cursed it that no one should find fruit on it any more. Later He goes to the temple and casts out the moneychangers and those that were defiling his house. Read Mark 11:12-19 for this story. Let us today remember the great responsibility of caring and sharing the gift that Jesus has put in us. The fig tree was created to bear fruit but was not living up to its responsibility as a fig tree. You were made a new creation through the power and blood of Jesus and were created to do good works. If our lives are unfruitful and dead we are not living up to the great work He has done in us. So today first cleanse your heart from sin, and offer yourself as a living sacrifice to be used as God sees fit. Then you will produce fruit in your life. The fruit is the souls that will be brought into the Kingdom and the glory that shines and grows from your testimony for Jesus. Pray today that God will give you the opportunity to serve and bear much fruit. PC

TUESDAY

On Tuesday Jesus teaches in the temple and on Mt Olivet. His message is of rebuke and inspiration and warning and the depths of what He was going to do. The gospels record His beautiful words that go directly to our hearts and souls. In the gospel of John chapter 12 Jesus explains that His death is necessary to glorify the name of the Son and the Father. But the necessity of His death was to save us from our own sins. He was to pay a debt He did not owe for a people who could not pay it. The debt required a sinless sacrifice, and Christ alone was the only person who ever lived on this earth that had no sin. His death was our gift to bring us into the Holy presence of God. Jesus died for our sakes. Most of what we do is for our own sakes. We get mad at other people who stand in our way when we are trying to do what we want to do. But Jesus gave all that we may have all. Today stop a moment and consider what Jesus, the God of the universe, creator of all, did on that cross just for you. When is the last time you did something for someone without any other reason except you love them. Do something extra today for someone that would never expect it from you. It may be a simple phone call or giving them a little gift. Whatever it may be let it be something that God leads you to do. Don't tell anyone and do it in the name of Jesus. Dear Father, use me today to touch someone who needs a touch of your love. Lead to the place and the person and the thing you want me to do. I do this in your name to be used for your glory PC

WEDNESDAY

This day is without record in the gospels and may have been a preparation for the Last Supper and the day of betrayal of Judas and His arrest. I am not going to try to speculate what

happened on this day, but I know that Jesus didn't waste one day He was on this earth. Jesus recorded ministry was from His age of 30-33. Those first 30 years He never sinned and He became endeared by His family and neighbors. No one ever stepped forward to say this man did something terrible in the years leading up to His ministry. So Wednesday was a day that belonged to the great plan of Jesus. There are days when it seems that everything is silent and no one seems to care about what we are going through or are going to face. It is on these days that our faith may be tested and our resolve threatened. Jesus must have had so much on His mind today because He understood the depth of pain He was going to have to endure. He knew the ones who would betray Him and deny Him. He knew that the Religious crowd was going to lie about Him and had evil thoughts toward Him. He knew men of great power in this world but less power than Him was going to kill Him. But He knew that one day you were going to be in need of a Saviour. And whatever would come His way His love for us kept driving Him to that cross. Today, know this, times will get tough, Satan will try to defeat you and people will disappoint you and try to hurt you, but keep going because you love the Lord. Love him with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. Don't let the day destroy you. This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it. PC

THURSDAY

Thursday is recorded in Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22. It is the day of the Lord's Supper, the betrayal of Judas, the prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, the arrest of Jesus and the denial of Peter. The disciples met with Jesus in the upper room and Jesus washed their feet in a demonstration of his complete devotion and servanthood to them. Then they took the bread which represented His sinless body, and the drink which represented His blood that would be shed for their sakes. The disciples did not know the depth of what Jesus was doing with them and for them, but they knew the importance of being close to Jesus. Later Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane where He had a very intimate and powerful talk with His Father in Heaven. They discussed His coming death and knew it was the only way that the world could ever be saved. In just a few hours Jesus would face the loneliness of bearing the sins of the world. We can never know the depth of what Jesus did for us, but we know He wants to be with us. This is the day we need to get alone with Jesus to know Him. His Holiness-His Love-His forgiveness-His faithfulness-His sacrifice-His Peace-His Closeness. Draw nigh to Him right now and feel Him draw nigh to you. It is His gift that cannot be fully explained but fully enjoyed. Make today simply about Jesus. Everywhere you go, and everything you do see Jesus and let him enjoy what you enjoy today. This is the most powerful thing we can have in this world is a life with Jesus. PC

FRIDAY

Luke 23:33 "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."

On Friday, Jesus was crucified on the old rugged cross. Jesus was innocent, perfect and sinless. He did not deserve to die but He willingly gave His life for you and for me. Jesus loved

us so much that He willingly died on the cross and shed His precious blood so we could be saved. Jesus was beaten, mocked, laughed at, spit upon, had a crown of thorns pierce His head, smote by the soldiers, nailed to a cross and hung there to die a cruel and painful death. The cross was a gruesome and horrific death. Yet at the same time it was beautiful; it was the greatest demonstration of love this world has ever seen. When Jesus died on that cross, He took my sin away. He did what the sacrificial lambs in the Old Testament could never do and that was wash our sins white as snow. That is why John the Baptist said in John 1:29 "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Until Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave, sin had never been taken away from man; it had only been temporarily covered up by the blood of animals. The blood of Jesus took our sins away! The work of the cross is complete and our salvation has been paid in full by the blood of Jesus! JL

SATURDAY

Today, let's remember the sinless sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Remember that He loves us and that He died for you and for me. The shed blood of Jesus is the only thing that has the power to forgive sins and make us white as snow.

Mark 15:46 "And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre."

After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. The bible teaches that Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus, wrapped it in fine linen, anointed it with spices, laid Him in a sepulchre and rolled a stone in front of the door of the tomb. This confirms that Jesus died. Jesus did not faint or pass out while on the cross; He died and was buried. By Jesus dying, He took the punishment of mine and your sin debt. Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death..." The result and consequence of sin is death. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and He became sin; because of that, Jesus died a physical death. I'm sure at this point, Satan was celebrating. Satan thought he had won because Jesus was lying in the grave. For three days, the devil and the demons thought they had defeated Jesus Christ. But on that third day when the women came to visit the tomb, they found something unusual. They found the stone had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was no longer in that grave. They soon found out that Jesus was alive and He had resurrected from the grave. His resurrection showed He had power over death, hell and the grave. His resurrection completed the plan of salvation for you and for me.

Today, let's remember that Jesus died and was buried. However, Jesus did not stay dead for long. He rose victorious over death, hell and the grave on that first Easter Sunday morning. Our Savior is alive forevermore, to God be the glory! JL