



Lesson Eight – July 14, 2020

The Week Before the Crucifixion

If we consider the Gospels as biographies of the life of Jesus, we notice that a large portion of these biographies is dedicated to the very last week of his earthly life. Only two of the Gospels give us any information about his birth; all four Gospels dedicate significant portions to the events leading up to his crucifixion.

We read the story of Jesus' last week, knowing the outcome in advance. We are on this side of the cross and the resurrection, and so the tragedy and awfulness of that last week somehow passes us by, because we're thinking, "Yeah, but. . ."

What are some of our perceptions of Jesus' last week based on our knowledge of the outcome? What are some of our "Yeah, but" thoughts?

The Triumphal Entry

What do you find unusual about the way this "triumphal entry" was planned and executed?

Matthew 21:1 – 10

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”

And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

Matthew 21:13-17

He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” And the blind and the lame

came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?'" And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

Also: [Mark 11:1 – 10](#), [Luke 19:28 – 42](#), [John 12:12 – 19](#)

What are some interesting things about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem? How did others react to it?

Luke 19:39-40: And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "[I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.]"

John 12:19: So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Why does Jesus allow this "triumphant entry"?

To call this a triumphal entry is a stretch! It lacks all the earmarks of a victorious, triumphant king or person. It is a very strange sight indeed.

The Last Supper

Chapters 13 – 17 of John give all the details of this last supper. It was like no other Passover supper before or since.

What is the most peculiar thing about this last supper?

John 13:3 – 15

³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,^[a] but is completely clean. And you^[b] are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

What is strange about verse 3?

Why did Peter say in verse 8, "*You shall never wash my feet*"?

Jesus once again turns the whole social order on its ear. He has ridden into Jerusalem with crowds praising him, and now he is doing the unthinkable, and even his disciples were horrified by it.

What do you do with verse 15: *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

Betrayal

What is the biggest bombshell that happens during this last supper?

John 13:21: "After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, 'Truly, truly I say to you, one of you will betray me.'"

What do you think about Judas? Who was he? What were his motives?

What one thing does the Bible tell us about his motive?

Contrast Peter with Judas? What is the difference in their "betrayals" of Jesus?

Gethsemane

Why do you think Jesus did not want to be alone on this night?

The disciples were there physically but not emotionally. Have you ever had a time in your life when you so needed someone there for you emotionally, but they just didn't meet your need?

If the women who loved Jesus had been with him that night, do you think they would have stayed awake and prayed with him?

When the disciples failed him, Jesus let them know they had failed him and that it was hurtful. *“Could you not watch one hour?”* he asked Simon Peter.

Then we hear Jesus’ prayer: *“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”* Why did he ask to have the cup removed?

Could Jesus have insisted that the cup be removed?

Later Jesus would say, *“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”* (Luke 24:26)

When did he know it was necessary? Did he know it all along or was Gethsemane the first time?

And he did it for you and me!

He allowed himself to be humbled as no person in all history has ever before been humbled. And he was—and is—God. Go figure!