

Monday, MARCH 29, 2010

Of all 52 weeks of the year, none has more spiritual significance than this week. The events of this week distinguish Christianity from all religions of the world. No other religion or faith claims God came to earth incarnate, lived a sinless life, died at the hands of a human race He created yet who rejected Him, and rose again from the dead after three days.

Today, re-read Matthew 21:1-17 and Luke 19:28-48. Re-consider the categories of people I discussed with you during worship this weekend. Let me help you with some questions:

“The disciples went ahead and did as Jesus instructed”

Question: Would you consider yourself a “disciple” of Jesus? Remember, they all fled when He was arrested in the garden. Then, after the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 2), they became fearless ambassadors of Christ and each eventually died a martyr, proclaiming Christ with courage, even to their death!

“The crowds went ahead of Him”

Question: Who is the “crowd” you are associated with? Does the crowd you run with help you become more the God honoring man or woman Jesus saved you to be or...?

“Jesus entered the Temple area and drove out those buying and selling”

Question: How do materialism, consumerism, and envy influence you and shape your reputation? Are you a good steward of God’s resources entrusted to you, or are you strangled by them?

“the blind and the lame came and He healed them.”

Question: Do you realize your need that only Jesus can help you with...what are you doing about it?

“they were indignant”

Question: How is your heart as you approach Easter 2010?

You saw the pictures of Haiti 60 days after the earthquake. What would be your attitude toward God if something similar happened in your town this week?

Tuesday, MARCH 30, 2010

Today read John 12:20-37 and look carefully at what John describes. “Greeks” were known as highly philosophical people. Remember when Paul visited Athens and debated with Greeks in the Areopagus (Acts 17:16-34) about their wide reaching religious ideas? Evidently some had come to Jerusalem to worship the Jewish God, but in the process had become fascinated by Jesus and wanted an audience with Him. Question: how often would you “like to see Jesus”? And what would you say to Him TODAY if you had 15 minutes face to face? Why not speak to Him right where you are, right now?

What did Jesus mean when He said “*the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified*”? Contrast that with John 2:4 when He said “*My time has not yet come*”. Remember, Jesus was on a very clear mission and being fully God and fully man, He knew exactly when and how the mission would be best accomplished.

Passover was the perfect week for Jewish Jesus to become the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Why? Would you consider reading Exodus 12:1-36, the original Passover, and link it with John 11:17-27? Watch carefully, and you’ll see why Jesus’ atonement death makes it possible for the “angel of death” to “pass over” you, and how Jesus’ redemption death and resurrection rescues you from the dominion of the dark kingdom and brings you into His kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14).

This Greek appeal for a few moments with Jesus fits with our Easter theme: “The Call...His Passion for All”, doesn’t it? The “Greeks” represent the non-Jewish world...about 6 Billion people today! Their appeal is exactly what is happening in our day. Remember the web site www.greatcommission2020.com? Go there and watch for a few moments...thousands of people daily asking exactly the same question these Greeks asked as they search for the living Truth, Jesus Christ! May I ask you to join me in praying for a few moments each day this week, that globally we might see one million people find Jesus Christ by the end of Easter Sunday?

Why not write here the names of some you know who need to “see Jesus” just like the Greeks?...

Wednesday, MARCH 31, 2010

The Gospel writers are not chronologically precise when describing Jesus’ final week so we are not exactly sure where they spent each night or what Jesus and His disciples did each day. I think it’s likely Matthew 24 & 25 may have occurred on Wednesday, so I invite you to read these two remarkable chapters. Link Matt. 24:1,2 with Luke 19:41-44.

The Temple Jesus frequented was the second Temple, reconstructed on the same site as the Solomon constructed the first Temple. This Temple’s reconstruction was complete in 516BC (Ezra 1-6), and refurbished by King Herod during the lifetime of Jesus. True to Jesus’ words, it was destroyed by the Roman army in 70AD, along with most of Jerusalem. A portion of the “western wall” or “wailing wall” in Jerusalem today is all that is left of the Temple Mount that Jesus visited this week about 2000 years ago.

Do you find it interesting Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives when speaking Matt. 24, 25? Very likely, they were in the “Garden of Gethsemane” looking across the shallow Kidron Valley, looking at the eastern wall of the Temple Mount and the grand Temple itself, while thousands of Passover week people bustled about making preparations for Passover. As you read what Jesus told His disciples, does it seem to you He is describing our day? Stop after Matt. 24:14 and reflect for a moment! Do you realize for the first time in history every distinctive, ethnolinguistic people group in the world is identified, and mission leaders are making great progress in bringing the Gospel to “all nations”? Calvary Church is an important part of this global evangelistic thrust!

As you read about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, link it with 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:35-57. What does it tell you? Might it be possible Jesus could return this week? If He did, what would happen to you and to those who have preceded you in death already? What would happen to those who have never trusted Jesus Christ to be their Savior?

The disciples of Jesus were hearing remarkable things about the future...our future! Never before in history have global conditions been more positioned for Matthew 24 to occur than in our day! Would Jesus’ return be wonderful news for you or...?

Digging Deeper is also available on our web site: www.calvarycommunity.net. Click on Resources and Digging Deeper

Thursday, APRIL 1, 2010

Today we enter the most significant weekend in the calendar year for the human race. Proceed carefully as you walk these next few days. I urge you to take the time necessary each day, for quiet reflection. Calvary Church is open for noon time prayer and meditation and our evening worship concert tonight and tomorrow invite you to encounter Jesus Christ.

Luke 22:1-16 is a powerful glimpse into events this Thursday of Holy Week. For thousands in Jerusalem that day, frantic efforts were underway to prepare for the great Passover meal. Nothing united Jews together as a nation more than this one evening. Similar to your Thanksgiving or Christmas with family, Passover drew Jews together in great celebration...and the added dimension of deep spiritual reflection. No one on that day knew how unique this Passover would be...except Jesus.

John 13,14,15,16,17, yes five chapters, give us the remarkable account of what took place in the private Passover meal that Jesus had with His closest friends that evening. May I urge you to find some time to read them over these next few days? This is a remarkably intimate scene. Jesus, fully aware of His complete authority, His redemption mission, and Satan's opposition... carefully, tenderly, powerfully explains to His friends that the time has finally come for His ultimate act of love, His atonement death for our sin. He had referred to it many times before, but on this evening, Jesus had their full attention as He explained that God would send "another Counselor" and that He was "going to prepare a place for you". He promised He would not "leave them as orphans". May I invite you to read these upper room chapters with this focus...

John 13...consider Jesus' selfless love expressed to Peter, Judas and the others in very intentional ways. What do you see?

John 14,16 Why the miracles? Notice how Jesus carefully explains the Holy Spirit. Do you see how sensitive Jesus is to their anxiety about His leaving?

John 15...dig deeply into the vine and branches image.

John 17...Personalize Jesus' prayer, He prayed for you!

Friday, APRIL 2, 2010

This weekend distinguishes Christianity from all other religions of the world. Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, was executed by angry human beings who fully rejected Him. Jesus' death, as fully God and fully man, paid the FULL atonement price for all sin, so Holy God can apply Jesus' sin payment to the sin debt of any repentant person, and thus declare their sin paid for and forgiven (Ephesians 1:4-2:9). That frees God to complete the full work of Salvation...creating in them a new spiritual nature (John 3:3-7); adopting the forgiven sinner into God's family (John 1:12; Gal. 4:4-7); reconciling the repentant sinner back to God in relationship (Romans 5:8-11).

Matthew 26:36- 27:66 is the "Jewish" account of what happened to Jesus as Matthew, one of Jesus disciples, was writing primarily to the Jews of his day.

Mark spent much time with the Apostle Peter and thus we presume wrote his account largely from Peter's viewpoint. Note Mark 14:51...might he be referring to himself? His account is Mark 14:32-15:47.

Luke 22:39-23:56 writes for the Roman world-wide audience, thus giving us a wider scoped perspective.

John 18,19 are the very personal, eye witness accounts of Jesus' best friend, the only disciple to follow Him from the upper room all the way to the tomb.

As you read each...what differences do you find that when combined together help you grasp the full mosaic of God's enormous love for you, His magnificent redemption plan and His great defeat of Satan's hold on you through Jesus' accomplishments this weekend?

The more you carefully walk this weekend with the risen Jesus, seeking to understand His full sacrifice for you, the more you'll find your perspective on life and the priorities of your life will be drawn to reflect His perspective and His priorities!



Pastor Doug Anderson

MARCH 29 - APRIL 2, 2010



THE CALL

HIS PASSION FOR ALL

EVERYONE



A Disciplemaking Tool
DIGGING
DEEPER

**Calvary**
Community Church

Engaging With God

Highway 50 & Harris Road
P.O. Box 1200 • Williams Bay, WI 53191
(262) 245-6294
www.calvarycommunity.net