



HOLY WEEK



LETTER FROM PASTOR NICK PERSON

We are preparing to step into Holy Week. Not just Holy Week as a reading plan, but the scriptures – the holy text that gives account to the holy Lord turning His face to Jerusalem and to his mission of death for life.

In this week of Jesus' triumphal entry, betrayal, trial, crucifixion, burial and resurrection, we will find that the Holy Scriptures are rich and ample to narrate history and rend our hearts for the love of our Savior.

So often we rush through Holy Week to get to the resurrection, but to fully appreciate the resurrection of Christ, we have to walk slowly through the trial endured and the death that was overcome.

This Holy Week, let's allow our hearts to enter into the text – to live and breathe these real and historical events – and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us through it.

This is the story of Jesus. Let us be wrecked, be changed, and find ourselves in humble worship of our Savior. Our hope is that you will walk through this week with your family, friends, neighbors so that we can be changed together.

And let us never forget – Easter is coming!

“For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

Hebrews 10:14



DAY 1: BACKGROUND

On the Monday of Holy Week, Jesus revealed that even though he was the one who left his throne in glory, he was still in authority as if He was still sitting in it. If Jerusalem was a beehive, with His triumphal entry the day before, Jesus hit it with a stick. You could hear the buzz grow as the anger within the religious leadership got organized. With that kingly arrival on Sunday, Jesus had made a strong declaration about His authority over all the conventions of man.

(Excerpt from shereadstruth.com)

DAY 1 – APRIL 6th

READ:

Matthew 21:12-22 NIV

Jesus at the Temple

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ e but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’” 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. 16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “ ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” 17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Jesus Curses a Fig Tree

18 Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. 19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered. 20 When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked. 21 Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”



DAY 1 – APRIL 6th

Isaiah 56:1-8 NIV

'This is what the Lord says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. 2 Blessed is the one who does this— the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil." 3 Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely exclude me from his people." And let no eunuch complain, "I am only a dry tree." 4 For this is what the Lord says: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant— 5 to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. 6 And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." 8 The Sovereign Lord declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

RESPOND:

1. What about Jesus' actions in the temple gets your attention? Why?
2. Do you feel like Jesus handled the situation well? Why or why not?
3. Why was Jesus so infused with passion over what the money changers were doing?
4. Do you think that Jesus was more upset at the money changers or those that allowed the money changers to do what they were doing? Why?
5. Why is it a good thing that Jesus exercised his authority?



DAY 1 – APRIL 6th

ACTIVITIES:

ADULT ACTIVITY

In light of Jesus revealing his authority, get a journal and write some ways in which you are thankful that Jesus is in control. Take your time and don't rush through your list. Maybe spend some time confessing some ways you have attempted to take control in your own life. Share some of the ways you are thankful for Jesus being in control and share some ways that you have attempted to be in control. Close out this time with prayer and recognizing that our life is better lived with the King leading us.

PRE-K ACTIVITY:

(Disclaimer: In light of the intensity of this week, there may be some pre-school text that take a different approach, still trying to keep the essence of the Holy Week journey.)

DAY 1: JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Jesus went to the temple court (church) and was very upset because people were there selling things. He turned over the tables and told them to stop. Jesus cleaned up the temple. Afterwards, He began to heal people. Children began shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

ACTIVITY: MAKE A TALKING TUBE

Provide a piece of paper, crayons, stickers, or any craft supplies you have to allow your child to decorate the paper. Once he has finish decorating it, roll it up and tape it. (As an alternative, decorate an empty paper towel tube.) Remind your child that Jesus deserves our praise. After Jesus cleaned out the temple, He began healing people. Children began shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Explain to your child that "Son of David" referred to Jesus and that he can praise Jesus just like the children in our Bible story did. Guide him to shout "Hosanna!" through the talking tube.



DAY 1 - APRIL 6th

KIDS ACTIVITY:

DAY 1: JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

Today we are learning how Jesus cleared out all the people in the Temple who were not honoring God. They were putting themselves and what they wanted before God. This made Jesus angry for what was right and good. We can say that He 'cleaned out the Temple'.

So here is today's activity: have your kids clean! (You're welcome.) Assign rooms, make teams, give them certain tasks (one person can dust while another vacuums.) Make it a race to see who can finish their task the fastest, or judge their results. Doing this all while, pointing out how their hearts need to be in the right place, like the people who did what was right at the Temple.

