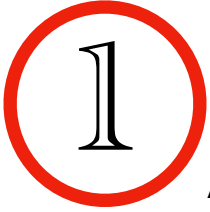




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**PRAYER WALK**



## **PALM SUNDAY- JESUS ARRIVES**

As you enter the city gates of Jerusalem imagine the sound of jubilant celebration in the air! The ringing sounds of music and voices speaking in excited tones. The hustle and bustle of families rushing through the streets. And the smell of all kinds of delicious foods filling the air. There is something special happening... the feast of Passover!

And with all of that excitement comes a new bit of news. A rumor being whispered, spoken and even shouted from person to person that a King will be arriving today in Jerusalem! You had heard that this man they are speaking of is a prophet. You even heard that he is a healer of some sort, but a King?

Suddenly, the shouts of the people seem to join together in a chorus of cheers and jubilation. Palm branches are being torn from the trees and laid upon the ground to make a path for this King. Soon through the crowd you see a figure. It's almost as if you've seen Him somewhere before. A man riding on the back of a colt. But this isn't just any man, this is the one that they are cheering for. This is Jesus entering the gates of the city and there you are experiencing every moment.

The crowds raised their voices and you joined in by shouting at the top of your voice, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*

What an amazing moment in time you just witnessed. Because this is Jesus of Nazareth.

**Scripture-** Matthew 21:6-11, Mark 11:6-10, Luke 19:35-44, John 12:12-19

**Prayer Points-** *What are you thankful for? What has the Lord given you that calls for celebration?*



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## MONDAY - CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

Still feeling excited from yesterday's experience, it's challenging to think of anything else. You've already told almost everyone you have met about seeing Jesus in person yesterday. But it's time to focus and head to the temple so that you can bring a sacrifice before the Lord in worship.

The temple was busier than usual and you have your sacrificial animal that you brought with you to the temple. You see something that just doesn't feel right. There are people in the temple courts buying and selling items to be sacrificed. You see the scales on the table, but they are not even! These sellers are robbing people. Are the priests really okay with this? Sadly it looks like they are.

Suddenly, Jesus comes into the temple and begins turning over the tables and shouting at those who are selling and buying in the temple. *"It is written, 'my house shall be a house of prayer', but you have made it into a 'den of thieves'!"* Jesus cleanses the temple of these unholy people.

Then, suddenly the blind and the lame enter the temple and Jesus heals them! You can't believe what you're seeing. All of the stories of Jesus' miracles are true! It does your heart good to see the temple being used for its true intention... prayer and healing.

**Scripture-** Matthew 21:12-17, Mark 11:13-17, Luke 19:45-46

**Prayer Point-** *What have you seen wrong in the world that the Lord is going to clean up? What needs to be cleansed from your life so that you can be closer to God?*



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## TUESDAY - JESUS SPEAKS

Jesus spends this day addressing many things and confronting those who stand against Him.

**The Fig Tree-** Jesus and His disciples approach a fig tree. This tree appears to be full of life, with green leaves and a strong trunk, it looks to be healthy. But upon further inspection Jesus sees that there is no fruit coming from this tree. *“Let no fruit grow on you ever again.”* Jesus said to the tree and immediately the tree withered away.

Of course, His disciples were astonished and asked how this happened. Jesus then speaks to them about the importance of having faith and not doubting. *“If you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and cast into the sea,’ it will be done.”* Empowering the disciples with something as simple yet powerful as hope, faith and spoken words.

**The Pharisees Confronted-** It’s almost as if those who stand against Jesus are working overtime since Jesus entered Jerusalem. Every time Jesus does something good, there they are to criticize and to question His authority. But that does not stop Jesus from doing what is right. And it also doesn’t stop Him from standing His ground.

The Pharisees asked Jesus by what authority does He do these things. And Jesus answers that question with a question, *“The baptism of John- where was it from? From heaven or from men?”* They discussed for a moment and replied that they did not know. And Jesus powerfully replied, *“Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”* But **you** know that Jesus speaks these things with truth and by the authority of God Almighty.

**Scripture-** Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21

**Prayer Point-** *What is one thing you can do today that can help repair relationships and bring some peace in your life?*



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## **WEDNESDAY- PREPARATIONS ARE MADE**

This day is a day of preparation. There are two very important moments being prepared for at the same time. Preparations for a Passover Meal and preparations for a betrayal.

**The Disciples Prepare the Upper Room-** It's the first day of the feast the disciples come to Jesus asking Him what they can do to help. They inquire about the location that they need to secure for the Passover meal. Jesus says in reply, **"When you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into a house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'' 'Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.'"**

So, the disciples do exactly as Jesus instructed and prepare the Upper Room for the Passover meal with Jesus.

**Scripture-** Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-16, Mark 22:7-8

**Judas Prepares for Betrayal-** Before the Passover meal one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot has plans of his own. He goes to the chief priests and asks, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" At that moment they counted out 30 pieces of silver. Judas' preparations are underway to sell out His Lord.

The 30 pieces of silver in today's currency would total approximately \$960.

This is an act that Judas would end up regretting. He would be *remorseful* by regretting what he did but not *repentant* to turn away from his sin.

**Scripture-** Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, Luke 23:3-6

**Prayer Point-** *We are always preparing for something. What are you preparing for and will you be happy with the end result?*



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## THURSDAY- LAST SUPPER & FOOT WASHING

It's time for the passover meal. Imagine yourself sitting there with Jesus and His disciples. You are all seated with Him waiting with great anticipation to hear what He has to say. This Passover has been different than ever before. You can't quite put your finger on the reason why it's different... it just is. You feel like something important is about to happen. Whether it's something very good or something terrible remains to be seen.

**Action-** *As you read the next segment we welcome you to participate in communion along with the text.*

As you are eating, Jesus takes the bread. He blesses it, He breaks it and then gives it to the disciples. He breaks the silence by saying, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

**Action-** *As you read the next segment we welcome you to participate in symbolic foot washing by washing each other's hands with the wipes provided.*

You look at the face of Jesus. He has a look of understanding on His face. The Father has put everything in place. So Jesus gets up from the table and sets His garments aside, takes a towel and pours water into a basin and begins to wash the disciples feet. Jesus says, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this"

After this Jesus says something that shocks everyone, "One of you will betray Me." Jesus then hands Judas a piece of bread and says, "What you do, do quickly." Judas stood up and left.

Peter speaks up and says, "I will lay down my life for you!" To which Jesus replies, "You will deny Me three times before the rooster crows."

**Scripture-** Matthew 26:20-35, Mark 14:17-31, Luke 22:14-32, I Cor 11:23-25

**Prayer Point-** *The greatest leaders in life are always willing to serve. Jesus led by example. Who do you lead and how can you best serve them?*



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## THURSDAY NIGHT/FRIDAY MORNING- THE GARDEN

Night has fallen. Jesus is deeply sorrowful and distressed as He leads the disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane. What is normally such a beautiful place looks ominous tonight. Jesus speaks to the 11 disciples that were there, **“Sit here while I go and pray.”**

Jesus took Peter, James and John further into the garden with Him. His sorrow and distress grows as He says, **“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”** He then has one simple request for them, **“Stay here and watch with Me.”**

As Jesus continues deeper into the garden, imagine that He has come to the place where you are standing now. He is alone as He falls on His face in prayer against the rock and cries out, **“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”**

**Action-** *We welcome you to kneel at the rock and pray.*

Three different times Jesus returns to the three disciples to find them sleeping instead of watching with Him. Jesus finally says to them, **“Rise, let us be going. My betrayer is at hand.”** As He is still speaking these words footsteps can be heard approaching. Judas approaches with an armed crowd from the chief priests and elders. Judas approaches Jesus and says, “Greetings Rabbi.” And kisses Him. This kiss of betrayal is a signal and the guards take Jesus into custody.

It’s so sad to see Jesus being taken, but what’s worse is that in that moment, His disciples flee. The only one who follows is Peter. But he follows at a great distance.

**Scripture-** Matt 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-50, Luke 22:39-53, John 17 & 18:1-11

**Prayer Point-** *We’ve all fallen short of expectations that are set. We’ve all had others not meet our expectations. How does the Lord want you to respond when people fail you and even betray you?*



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## FRIDAY - THE DENIAL AND THE TRIALS

It feels like the whole world has been turned upside-down. Everything that you know is being brought into question as Jesus, the One that you know to be the Son of God is brought to trial. He faces three different Jewish trials. Being brought before the High Priests and the Sanhedrin. All of them questioning His authority.

As Peter follows from a distance, he stands at the door, close enough to hear but not close enough to be implicated. But a servant girl says to Peter, "You're one of Jesus' disciples, aren't you?" Peter quickly replied, "I am not."

Jesus is questioned again about His disciples and His teachings, Jesus stands his ground, but Peter denies Jesus two more times; and immediately the rooster crows.

The trial process continues before Herod and then Pilate. As Jesus is led to Pilate, Judas, the betrayer, realizes his sin and tries to return the silver. The rulers do not want it so he throws down the silver in the temple. Judas then departs and takes his own life.

Imagine yourself standing in the crowd as Pilate addresses the Jewish leaders. Pilate says about Jesus, "You brought Him to me as one who misleads the people, but I find no fault in Him at all." During the feast it was customary for Pilate to release one prisoner. Either Jesus or the thief Barabbas. Pilate plans on chastising Jesus and releasing Him.

But the crowd turns angry and begins to shout, "Release to us Barabbas!" What? This can't be! This same Jesus that was being welcomed as a King on Sunday is now being convicted?

You are overwhelmed with grief and pity as the crowd now begins to shout, "Crucify Him!"

**Scripture-** Matthew 26 & 27, Mark 14 & 15, Luke 22 & 23, John 18 & 19

**Prayer Point-** *We feel the pain when people choose the wrong thing. How does the Lord want you to navigate these wrong choices? How can you hear from the Lord so that you can make the right choices?*



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## FRIDAY- THE PUNISHMENT

Every possible question is going through your mind as you stand and witness the punishment of this innocent man. How could this happen? Why would anyone do this? What can I do to help? And if I help will I meet the same fate as Jesus?

And if you feel this way as a spectator, how must His disciples feel? Not only the fear of meeting the same fate but also the sorrow of knowing that you left the one you call Savior when He needed you the most.

Jesus has been beaten to the point where He barely resembles a human. His flesh torn from the whip, His face swollen and bloody from the beatings. Pieces of His face torn off where the soldiers ripped His beard out.

You stand unable to move as you see what they have done to Him. Making everything worse, the soldiers are laughing at Him. They have twisted thorns into a crown and pushed it into His skull. They put a robe on His torn flesh and kneel before Him mocking Him. This is more than just a punishment... this is humiliation.

Jesus knows something that the soldiers don't. He knows that they are fulfilling prophecy from Isaiah 53, He would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities and that by His stripes we are healed.

**Scripture-** Matthew 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20, Luke 22:63-65, John 19:1-4

**Prayer Point-** *Sin needs to be atoned for. Your life has value to the Lord and the sin, the betrayal, the selling out, the unfaithfulness and so much more... Jesus took all of that sin and corruption upon Himself and died for it. This is what sin does. It always brings death. And we have all fallen short. Take a moment and soak that in as you pray.*





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## FRIDAY- COME FOLLOW ME

Jesus takes up His cross and carries it to the place of crucifixion. When Jesus takes up His cross He is carrying more than a wooden structure. Unknown to the spectators standing around you, Jesus is carrying the sins of all mankind, facing the punishment that those sins deserved. He is about to suffer on your behalf.

Jesus walks down the main business route through Jerusalem called the Via Dolorosa, which translated means, *“sorrowful road, a painful, difficult route of passage.”*

**Action-** *Take some time and watch the video of Jesus carrying His Cross down the Via Dolorosa.*

**Scripture-** Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26-31, John 19:16-17

**Prayer Point-** *What stands out to you as you view the video? Take that with you to the next station as you pray. And remember, prayer is simply talking to God.*



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## **FRIDAY- THE CRUCIFIXION**

The sky seems dark as you look up at the cross. Jesus, this man who did no wrong to anyone is now suffering for everyone. You stand there with no words that can describe how you are feeling. You see and hear His mother weeping as they punish her son. How much longer must he suffer up there?

As He is still alive the soldiers took his garments and divided them up for themselves, casting lots for the rest. This is the fulfillment of yet another prophecy.

Suddenly the dark sky got even darker. The sun was completely covered and the earth rumbles beneath your feet as Jesus cries out in a loud voice, **“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”** And He breathes His last breath.

**Action-** *Take some time and kneel at the altar provided and pray.*

**Scripture-** Matthew 27:33-56, Mark 15:22-41, Luke 23:32-49, John 19:17-37

**Prayer Point-** *Recalling what stood out to you from the video at the previous station and what you are experiencing here, take some time to pray. Do you need forgiveness from sin? Do you need hope? Do you grieve a broken relationship? Are you confused and lost and don't know what to do? Jesus is the answer. He paid it all for you.*



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## **FRIDAY/SATURDAY- THE TOMB**

The shock of Jesus' death is still fresh when they remove Him from the cross. They take His body down and wrap it in linen. There is a tomb that belongs to a man named Joseph of Arimathea, he does not agree with the decision or the deed to kill Jesus. He offers his tomb for Jesus to be buried in.

Saturday is silent. It is a day of preparation, a day of mourning and sadness. Mary Madeline is preparing for the next day to anoint Jesus' body with spices. His body in the tomb... silent.

But Jesus' spirit is elsewhere. He is taking back the keys of power. Conquering death and the grave in the Spirit. We may not always be able to see God working. Things may be silent, but God is still working.

**Action-** *Enter the tomb and take some time to pray.*

**Scripture-** Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42

**Prayer Point-** *Is there something that you have given up hope for because you haven't seen proof of it working out? Take a moment and give that to the Lord. Let Him work where things are unseen but will be revealed in the right time... which is His time.*



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## **SUNDAY- RESURRECTION!**

Imagine standing next to the tomb. It is early morning. The sun has yet to rise on this Sunday. Mary walks down the hill toward the tomb. In her hands she carries everything she needs to anoint and prepare Jesus' body.

She is in disbelief as she sees that the stone that held the door closed had been rolled away. She rushes to the door and sees that tomb is empty. She is in shock and fears that the Body of Jesus was stolen. Even after retrieving Peter and John who both also witness the empty tomb she is still grieving. As she is weeping alone outside the tomb she turns to see a man standing there. She has yet to figure out what you already know, that this Man standing before her is Jesus!

He gently asks her, **“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”** She replies, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him.” Jesus then simply spoke her name, **“Mary.”** and she realizes with great joy that this is Jesus!

As you have left this tomb, Jesus left the tomb as well. As you stand among the white linens, death is behind you and life is ahead of you. Jesus did something that no other religious figure has ever done... He rose from the grave. He is alive!

**Scripture-** Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56,  
John 19:38-42

**Prayer Point-** *All of the things that you witnessed today Jesus did for you. This can be a new day for you. You can walk out of here with a new beginning, a new start. Will you accept Jesus as your Savior? Will you renew your commitment to Him? Today is the day of salvation.*