

The Impact of Holy Week on Me:

Recalling the life and experience of Jesus during Holy Week gives me a sense of a rock solid foundation of my faith. My faith is not wishful thinking it is founded on the facts of history revealed in God’s Word.

I can better understand the disciples – their perplexity of seeing their master and teacher led away and crucified. Their fears, courage, and boldness displayed when they experience their resurrected Lord.

I am convicted that as a disciple of Jesus that I need to be “MORE” for Jesus.

I realize how badly that the religious establishment was at failing to genuinely help Israel to experience communion with God.

I am drawn to a more intimate appreciation of the life, work, and victory of Jesus over sin and death on my account. I am challenged to accept and embrace God’s love for me.

How have you been challenged and encouraged in your pilgrimage through the people and events of Holy Week?

Prayer for Palm Sunday (Matt 21:1-11; Psa 118:1-2; Psa 118: 19-29)

Lord God, I give You thanks, for You are good, and Your mercy endless. Here I stand, at the start of Holy Week, this week, in which your church remembers Jesus’ passion and death.

I am distracted by many things. Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in Your name. The One who opens the gates of righteousness. The One who answers when we call.

I bless You, Lord, for shining Your light upon me and for sending Your Son to us, in human frailty to walk the road we walk. Open my eyes that I may see Him coming.

And may I praise Him with a pure heart. And may I walk in the way of His suffering. And may I also share in His resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Walking with Jesus through the Holy (Passion) Week

A Harmony of the Events of Jesus’ Final Weeks
(cf Matt 21—28; Mark 11—16; Luke 19—24; John 12—21)

Modern Calendar Days	Event of the Holy Week
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Arrival in Bethany (John 12:1))Evening celebration, Mary anoints Jesus (John 12:2-8; cf Matt. 26:6-13)
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; John 12:12-18)Jesus surveys the temple area (Mark 11:11)Return to Bethany (Matt 21:17; Mark 11:11)
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cursing the fig tree on the way to Jerusalem (Matt 21:18-22; cf. Mark 11:12-14)Clearing the temple (Matt 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17)Miracles and challenges in the temple (Matt 21:14-16; Mark 1:18)Return to Bethany (Mark 11:19)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reaction to cursing the fig tree on the way back to Jerusalem (Matt 21:20-22; Mark 11:20-21)Debates with religious leaders in Jerusalem and teaching in the temple (Matt 21:23—23:39; Mark 11:27—12:44)Eschatological Discourse on the Mount of Olives on the return to Bethany (Matt 24:1—25:46; Mark 13:1-37)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Silent Wednesday”—Jesus and disciples remain in Bethany for last time of fellowshipJudas returns alone to Jerusalem to make arrangements for the betrayal (Matt 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparations for Passover (Matt 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16) <p><i>After sundown:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Passover meal and Last Supper (Matt 26:20-35; Mark 14:17-26)Upper Room discourses (John 13-17)Prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42)
Friday	<p><i>Sometime perhaps after midnight:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Betrayal and arrest (Matt 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52)Jewish trial—Jesus appears in three phases in front of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annas (John 18:13-24)- Caiaphas and partial Sanhedrin (Matt 26:57-75; Mk 14:53-65)- Sanhedrin fully assembled (perhaps after sunrise) (Matt 27:1-2; Mark 15:1)Roman trial—Jesus appears in three phases before:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pilate (Matt 27:2-14; Mark 15:2-5)- Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12)- Pilate (Matt 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15)Crucifixion (<i>approx. 9 AM to 3 PM</i>) (Matt 27:27-66; Mark 15:16-39)
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resurrection witnesses (Matt 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12)Resurrection appearances (Matt 28:9-20; Luke 24:13-53; John 20-21)

Palm Sunday to Easter

BETHANY, the MOUNT OF OLIVES and JERUSALEM

2. Clearing of the Temple MONDAY

Mt 21:10-17;
Mk 11:15-18;
Lk 19:45-48

The next day he returned to the Temple and found the court of the Gentiles full of traders and money changers making a large profit as they gave out Jewish coins in exchange for "pagan" money. Jesus drove them out and overturned their tables.

3. Day of controversy and parables TUESDAY

Mt 21:23-24:51;
Mk 11:27-13:37; Lk 20:1-21:36

IN JERUSALEM

Jesus evaded the traps set by the priests.

ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM

(Tuesday afternoon, exact location unknown)

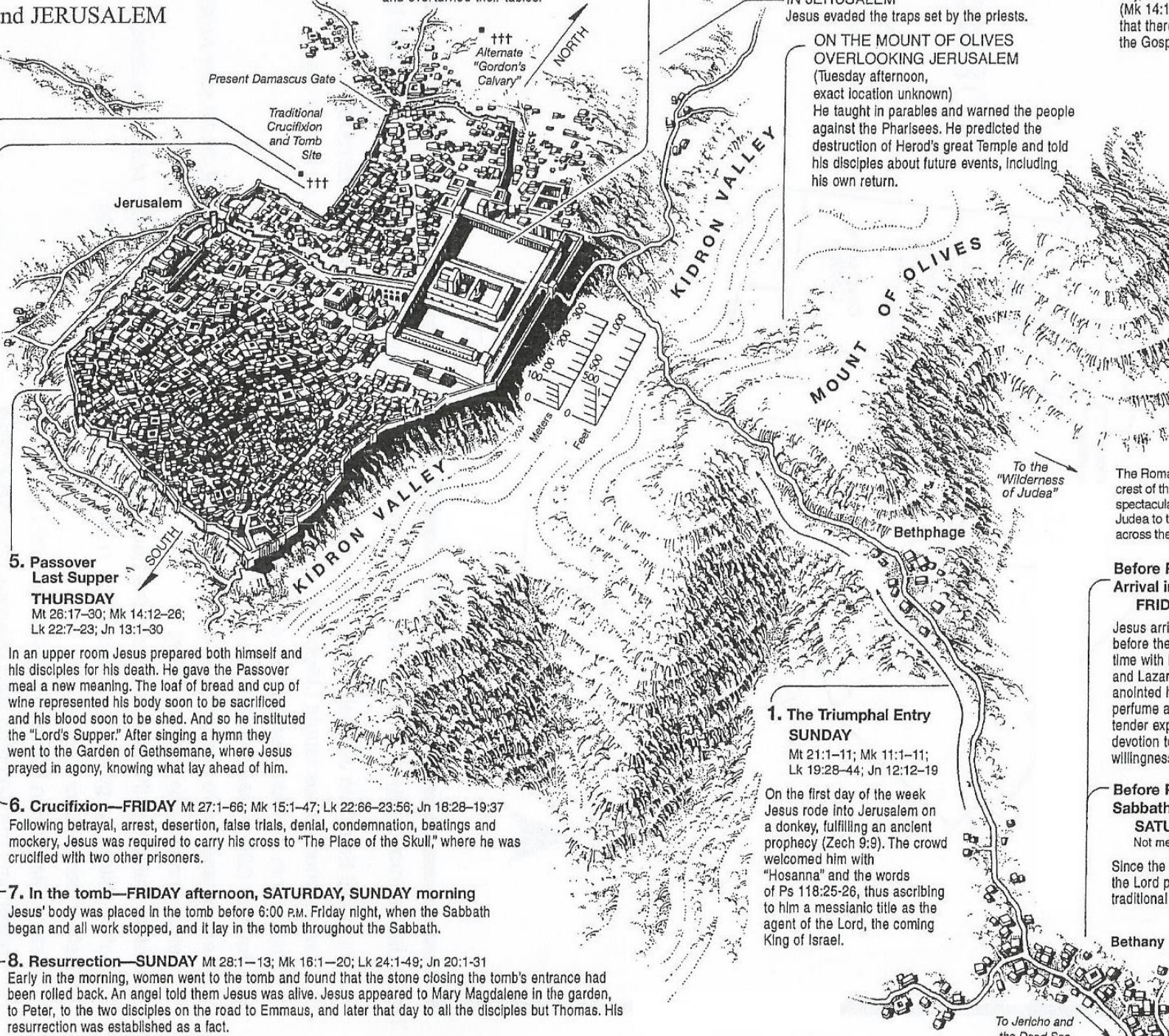
He taught in parables and warned the people against the Pharisees. He predicted the destruction of Herod's great Temple and told his disciples about future events, including his own return.

4. Day of rest

WEDNESDAY

Not mentioned in the Gospels

The Scriptures do not mention this day, but the counting of the days (Mk 14:1; Jn 12:1) seems to indicate that there was another day of which the Gospels record nothing.



5. Passover Last Supper THURSDAY

Mt 26:17-30; Mk 14:12-26;
Lk 22:7-23; Jn 13:1-30

In an upper room Jesus prepared both himself and his disciples for his death. He gave the Passover meal a new meaning. The loaf of bread and cup of wine represented his body soon to be sacrificed and his blood soon to be shed. And so he instituted the "Lord's Supper." After singing a hymn they went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony, knowing what lay ahead of him.

6. Crucifixion—FRIDAY

Mt 27:1-66; Mk 15:1-47; Lk 22:66-23:56; Jn 18:28-19:37
Following betrayal, arrest, desertion, false trials, denial, condemnation, beatings and mockery, Jesus was required to carry his cross to "The Place of the Skull," where he was crucified with two other prisoners.

7. In the tomb—FRIDAY afternoon, SATURDAY, SUNDAY morning

Jesus' body was placed in the tomb before 6:00 P.M. Friday night, when the Sabbath began and all work stopped, and it lay in the tomb throughout the Sabbath.

8. Resurrection—SUNDAY

Mt 28:1-13; Mk 16:1-20; Lk 24:1-49; Jn 20:1-31
Early in the morning, women went to the tomb and found that the stone closing the tomb's entrance had been rolled back. An angel told them Jesus was alive. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden, to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all the disciples but Thomas. His resurrection was established as a fact.

1. The Triumphal Entry SUNDAY

Mt 21:1-11; Mk 11:1-11;
Lk 19:28-44; Jn 12:12-19

On the first day of the week Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zech 9:9). The crowd welcomed him with "Hosanna" and the words of Ps 118:25-26, thus ascribing to him a messianic title as the agent of the Lord, the coming King of Israel.

Before Palm Sunday Arrival in Bethany FRIDAY

Jn 12:1

Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover to spend some time with his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. While here, Mary anointed his feet with costly perfume as an act of humility. This tender expression indicated Mary's devotion to Jesus and her willingness to serve him.

Before Palm Sunday Sabbath—day of rest SATURDAY

Not mentioned in the Gospels

Since the next day was the Sabbath, the Lord probably spent the day in traditional fashion with his friends.

Bethany