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FOLLOWING JESUS ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS

This summary of the last week of the Way of the Cross is presented here as a devotional outline for daily reading. Its purpose is to bring together events, teachings and encounters during this week rather than discuss details of chronology, order and location. Space is left to write in daily activities to remember.

1. THURSDAY before Palm Sunday - Review of the final Perea and Judean ministries

Matt. 19.1-20.16 Luke 18.15-30
Mark 10.1-31 John 10.40-11.54

2. FRIDAY before Palm Sunday - Events at Jericho (grouped together) and the final ascent through the wilderness to Jerusalem for Passover (Cf. David's experience along this road, 2 Sam. 15.7-16.14, and chapters like Isaiah 35, 40, 52-55, 59-66).

Matt. 20.17-43 Luke 18.31-19.28
Mark 10.32-52 John 11.55-12.2 (?)

3. SATURDAY (Sabbath) before Palm Sunday

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- - - John 12.2-8 (?)

4. PALM SUNDAY - Entry into Jerusalem from Bethany (Cf. Psalms 46, 48, 120-134, 2 Sam. 15.30, Jer. 9.1-2; Lam. 3.22-33; Zech. 12-14, 9.9)

Matt. 21.1-11, 14-17 Luke 19.29-44
Mark 11.1-11 John 12.12-19

5. MONDAY - The fig tree and Temple affair (Cf. Jer. 7.1-11)

Matt. 21.18, 19, 12, 13 Luke 19.45-48
Mark 11.12-18 John 12.20-50(?)

6. TUESDAY - A busy day of discussion on the Temple Mount and Mount of Olives

a. Morning (Bethany to Jerusalem) Matt. 21.19-22 (Luke 21.37-38)
Mark 11.19-25 - - -

b. Early that day (Temple Mount) Matt. 21.23-23.39 Luke 20.1-21.4
Mark 11.27-12.44 (John 12.20-50(?))

c. Later that day (Mount of Olives) Matt. 24 & 25 Luke 21
Mark 13 - - -

d. Evening (Bethany) Matt. 26.1-16 Luke 22.1-6
Mark 14.1-11 (John 12.2-8)

7. WEDNESDAY - A quiet day (perhaps betrayal of Judas in "d" above)

8. MAUNDY THURSDAY - Preparing and eating the Passover and subsequent events

a. Morning and afternoon Matt. 26.17-19 Luke 22.7-13
Mark 14.12-16 - - -

b. Evening: Before and during the Passover meal (Jewish 6th day) Matt. 26.20-35 Luke 22.20-38
Mark 14.17-31 John 13.1-30
(cf. Mt. 26:30 and the "Hallel" in Psalms 115-118)

c. During the meal and/or on the way to Gethsemane (cf. Ps. 80) - - - - - -
- - - - - - John 14-17

d. Later that night - Gethsemane and arrest Matt. 26.36-56 Luke 22.39-53
Mark 14.1-52 John 18.1-12

9. Good Friday - Trials, mockings, crucifixion and burial

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| a. In the early hours of Friday
(beginning long before dawn) | Matt. 26.57-27.44
Mark 14.53-15.32 | Luke 22.54-23.43
John 18.13-19.27 |
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Mark's "third hour" for the crucifixion (15.25) would place it about 9:00 a.m. The mocking of Jesus on the cross would have taken place until the "sixth hour" or about noon (Mk. 15.33). (Note John's sixth hour in 19.14.) Matthew, Mark and Luke speak of Jesus' death at the "ninth hour" or about 3:00 p.m. These times are of course approximate.

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| b. From the third to the sixth hour
(Cf. Psalm 22) | Matt. 27.45-56
Mark 15.33-41 | Luke 23.44-49
John 19.28-30 |
| c. From the sixth hour until sunset | Matt. 27.57-61
Mark 15.42-47 | Luke 23.50-56
John 19.31-42 |

Matthew 27.62, Mark 15.42, Luke 23.54 and John 19.14,31,42 all identify the day of the crucifixion as Friday, the normal Jewish day of preparation for the Sabbath. John states that this Sabbath, falling as it did in the passover week, was a high day. During this Feast of Unleavened Bread Jews were careful not to come into contact with anything unclean so as to be able to participate in the evening sacrifice; thus their unwillingness to enter into the Roman (gentile) praetorium (John 18.28) where Jesus was.

10. Saturday - A day of rest

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| a. During the Sabbath | Matt. 27.62-66
- - - | Luke 23.56
- - - |
| b. After Sabbath | - - -
Mark 16.1 | (Luke 23.56)
- - - |
| c. Selected passages on which to
meditate during the day. | Matt. 16.13-28
Mark 8.27-9.1
2.1-8; Phil. 3.7-14 | Luke 9.18-27
John 6.35-69
John 1.29-34 |

11. Sunday - "Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!" (Ancient Easter Greeting)

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| a. Early in the morning | Matt. 28.1-15
Mark 16.2-8 | Luke 24.1-12
John 20.1-18 |
| b. Afternoon (on the road to Emmaus) | - - -
- - - | Luke 24.13-32
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| c. Evening (in Jerusalem) | - - -
- - - | Luke 24.33-43
John 20.19-25 |

12. Easter Monday - Concluding passages from the Gospels and St. Paul

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| Subsequent appearances which occurred later but which can be read on this day. Note Paul's summary of events. | Matt. 28.16-20
Mark 16.9-20 (?)
1 Corinthians 15.1-58 | Luke 24.44-50
John 20.26-21.25 |
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ALLELUIA !