

LOST AND FOUND

Palm Sunday | March 28, 2010

Celebration Service - 8:45 am
Elevation Service - 10:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

What If You Did Not Know You Are Lost? - Matthew 16:13-23; Luke 22:55-62

Four tests Jesus has to determine if you have lost your way:

Matthew 16:13-23

Test #1: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" vs. 13-14

Are you influenced by other people's beliefs?

John the Baptist: Good man but tries to force his religious values on me. Matthew 14:1-5

Elijah: Exciting miracles, great show but too intolerant. I Kings 18, 19

Jeremiah: Good prophet but too negative and judgmental. Lamentations.

Test #2: "But who do you say that I am?" vs. 15-20

Do you know the truth about Jesus?

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." vs. 16

Jesus is God. Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:5, 6; Micah 5:2

Jesus is a Prophet. Luke 24:19; Acts 3:22

Jesus is a Priest. Psalm 110:4; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 6:20; 7:23-25

Jesus is a King. Psalm 2:6; Zechariah 9:9; Revelation 19:16

Test #3: Do you understand and support My mission? vs. 21-28

I can choose man-centered interests: vs. 21-23

I can commit to a Christ-centered mission: vs. 24-28

Final Exam: Passing each previous test better assures success on the final exam.

Will you deny Him when life really gets tough?

Luke 22:55-62

The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:61, 62

I Peter 1:13-21 Peter is no longer lost, but is found in the Mission of Christ.

Digging Deeper

Scripture Readings of the Traditional Chronology of Passion Week

Some opinions differ on the timeline of these events.

Sunday - The Triumphal Entry (Mt. 21; Mk. 11; Lk. 19; Jn. 12).

Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zech. 9:9). The people welcome Him with "Hosanna" and the words of Psalm 118:25-26.

Monday - Cleansing of the Temple (Mt.21; Mk.11; Lk.19).

On this day Jesus returns to Jerusalem (He spends each night in Bethany). On the way He curses the fig-tree, a highly symbolic act. He then enters the Temple and chases out the corrupt money-changers. This shows His Messianic authority (My Father's House) and fulfills another prophecy that implies the Messiah will appear there suddenly and take possession of it. (See Mal. 3:1). They then return to Bethany. On the way home they see the withered fig-tree.

Tuesday - The Day of Controversy and Teaching in Parables.

On this day Jesus personally confronts the authorities and defends His claims to be the Messiah. The occasion for their questions was His violent action the previous day. Mark's gospel gives the most detailed account (Mk. 11:27-13:37). The day ends with Jesus pronouncing a curse on the city and announcing that the Kingdom will be taken away from the nation (explains the significance of the cursed fig-tree). See Matt. 23. On the return to Bethany the Disciples are loaded with questions. Jesus stops at the Mount of Olives overlooking the temple, and gives the Olivet Discourse. See Matt. 24, 25; Lk.21:5ff. The Olivet Discourse is a detailed prophecy largely about the coming destruction Jerusalem and the temple due to the rejection of Jesus as Messiah by the Jewish authorities.

Wednesday - The Silent Day.

After an exhausting day of controversy, Jesus more than likely spends this day resting and visiting with His intimate friends.

Thursday - Day of Preparation and Passover in the Evening. (Some place His crucifixion on this day.)

1. On this day (and perhaps on the previous day) preparation is made for the Passover. Judas may have also utilized this time for his betrayal (Matt.26:1-5; 14-16; 17-19).
2. The Passover is celebrated on Thursday evening (Friday by Jewish reckoning) in an upper room. Tradition has it that it was owned by Mark's parents. At the end of the Jewish feast, Jesus institutes the Last Supper (Matt. 14:12-26; Lk. 22:17-23).
3. The Last Supper is followed by the Upper Room Discourse (Jn. 13-17).
4. Sometime in the evening, after the Passover, Jesus and His disciples leave the Upper Room and go to Gethsemane, a place near the Mt. of Olives where it was a custom for Jesus to Pray (Matt. 26:36-460).
5. While in the Garden, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested by the temple guards (Jn. 18:2-12).
6. The Trials begin. Before dawn Jesus is tried twice before Annas and then Caiaphas. Everything about trials is illegal.

Friday - Trials, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial.

1. Jesus' third trial is held early in the morning before the Sanhedrin. The first three trials were before the religious authorities where He is found guilty.
2. Jesus is then taken before Pilate (the fourth trial) where He is found innocent. He is subsequently taken to Herod who also finds Him innocent (the fifth), and then back to Pilate who again finds Him innocent (the sixth) but relents under pressure, perhaps fearing an uprising. He notes on the sign on the cross that His crime was being the King of the Jews. He probably did this to avoid trouble with Rome (No king but Caesar).
3. About 9:00 am Jesus is crucified on a hill called The Skull outside the city. At noon, the sky becomes dark, either due to supernatural darkness or because of an eclipse. In either case, the darkness is highly symbolic of the Father turning His back on the One He had earlier called My beloved Son.
4. At 3:00 pm Jesus utters the most important words to believers when He cries with a loud voice: It is finished. The phrase literally means "paid in full." The spotless Son of God became sin for us! Isa. 53:5, 6. Jesus gives up His life and fulfills the typology of the Passover Lamb at exactly the time the lambs were being slaughtered in the temple. The veil is rent in the Temple (Mk. 15:38). Jesus was on the cross six hours.
5. Jesus is laid in Joseph's tomb before the Sabbath began at sunset, or around 6:00 pm.

Saturday - Jesus' body lies in the tomb.

After 6:00 pm the Sabbath is over and His body is treated with spices (Mk. 16:1).

Sunday - Resurrection Day.

The Father raises the Son from the dead sometime early Sunday morning, possibly before dawn. In doing so, He fulfills the typology of the First Fruits (I Cor. 15:23. Matt. 28:1-13).



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