



# R E S C U E



SUMMITVIEW CHURCH



# Monday

## Cleansing the Temple

### **Luke 19:45-48 (ESV)**

*And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."*

*And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.*

When you think of Jesus, are you drawn to His compassion for the broken? His welcoming nature? His deep love for humanity? Early in Holy Week, I want to share with you a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry: the cleansing of the temple. Within this passage, we are reminded that Jesus' radical love includes a profound commitment to the honor and reverence of God's name, and, witnessing the desecration of the temple, we catch a glimpse of His righteous anger.

In that time, God's temple was meant to be a sanctuary, a place where people could encounter the presence of God and offer their prayers and worship. In Luke's passage, we're told that instead of fostering this connection between God and man, it had been turned into a marketplace — a scene of commerce and exploitation. Jesus' zeal for His Father's house compelled Him to purge those who defiled it.

Today, Jesus continues to be zealous for the sanctity of His temple: us! As Christians, we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. So, let us ask ourselves: In what ways do we allow this sacred space to be profaned? Have we prioritized material gain over spiritual growth? Have we allowed worldly pursuits to overshadow our worship of God? Are we more concerned with our own interests than with seeking God's presence?

Jesus' actions in the temple challenge us to examine our own lives and attitudes. Just as He cleansed the physical temple, so too does He desire to cleanse our hearts and lives from anything that obstructs, defiles, or distracts us from true devotion and worship. This Holy Week let's allow Jesus to overturn the tables of greed, selfishness, and pride within us, that our hearts may become true temples of his Spirit.

- Kyle Wetzler

Heritage Park Campus

## Reflect

*Take time to prayerfully consider the areas of your life where Jesus may be calling you to repent in light of this passage. Examine your priorities and attitudes, renouncing anything that impedes your relationship with God. Is there anything in your life that is distracting you from fully worshipping and engaging God?*

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# Tuesday



## The Fig Tree

### **Matthew 21:20-22**

*When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."*

### **Mark 11:20-26**

*As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*



The power of faith. I see it in so many examples throughout our Lord's ministry. The men who tore the roof off a house, to lower their friend on a platform through the hole in the roof, so Jesus could heal him. The two blind men who wouldn't stop calling for Jesus even though the crowds were telling them sternly to be quiet. The woman who pushed her way through the crowd, believing if she just touched the fringe of Jesus' garment she would be healed of her ailment. All these people had their needs answered because of their faith in Jesus.

There are many other examples of faith in action throughout the Gospels. And here, a few days before the Lord is to be arrested and crucified, Jesus is reminding His disciples about the power of faith through a fig tree.

A withered fig tree.

The disciples had witnessed how Jesus touched many lives and heard His teachings for three years, and now Jesus has more to teach them. Here He reminds them about the power of faith in Him and what they can accomplish through Him. I'm struck by this.

Faith to move mountains? Believing He will answer my prayers? Not doubting in my heart? I don't believe He is saying these things to give me everything I want, but to understand that He wants me to believe and trust in Him completely.

"Have faith in God," Jesus says in Mark 11:22. I do have faith in God. But, to be honest, I feel unworthy of His love for me at times, and it causes me to doubt Him.

But then I am reminded of who Jesus is. That Jesus was on His way to the cross to demonstrate God's love for the world, to die on the cross, to be buried, and to rise again on the third day; conquering death, conquering sin, conquering the devil. And it was during that week that Jesus spoke to His disciples about the

power of faith. And when I remind myself of what Jesus did for me, it's then that I think: Maybe I can move mountains in my life, He does hear my prayers when I call out to Him, and I do have less doubt in my heart.

- Steve Hargett

Westside Campus

### Reflect

*Are there mountains that seem impossible to move in your life? Do you doubt His power in your life? Do you believe He hears your prayers? As you meditate on the Lord this week be reminded of His great love for you through the cross. Think about what He has already accomplished for you through His death and resurrection. And pray for Him to press these truths on your heart as you seek to know the power of faith in your own life.*

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# Wednesday

*Plot Against Jesus*

**Matthew 26:3–5**

*Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”*

Jesus' public ministry only lasted about three years, but those three years changed the course of history! Jesus' popularity and controversial ways got the attention of the religious leaders and not in a good way. The religious leaders quickly started plotting against Jesus, they tried to discredit Him, to trap Him, and when that didn't work, they plotted to kill Him.

What were some of Jesus' so-called crimes? Healing people on the sabbath (Luke 6:6-11); cleansing the temple from moneychangers (John 2:13-22); associating with tax collectors and sinners. These actions sadly threatened the religious leaders and they secretly plotted to kill Jesus even though they, in their own words, confirmed that Jesus had performed many miracles. John 11:47-48 reads, *"Then the leading priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the council. They asked, 'What should we do? This man is doing many miracles. If we let him continue doing these things, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away our Temple and our nation.'"*

I have often wondered why the religious leaders had such vitriol in their emotional response. I believe they felt threatened by Jesus; they felt he was attacking their rules, attacking their way of life, and threatening their standing.

The two biggest motivators that stir us to action are love and fear. God's motivation for sending Jesus was His love for us; John 3:16 reads: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* And Galatians 2:20 reminds us that Jesus loved us and gave Himself up for us.

The religious leaders, however, were operating out of fear and pride, and they tried to justify what they did. Sadly, isn't that just what we do when we consciously make a sinful decision? When confronted with our sin, our natural inclination may be to justify our actions, much like the religious leaders did. We tell ourselves excuses like "everyone was doing it", "they started it", "it was only a white lie", or even worse "no one will know."

The reality is that sin usually compounds sin; it only exacerbates the problem and makes matters worse.

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, our response should be immediate repentance; we should ask God for forgiveness and turn away from our sin. We shouldn't try to justify our wrongdoing.

- Bruce Dillow

Heritage Park Campus

### Reflect

*The life and ministry of Jesus challenges us to examine our motivations. Like the religious leaders, fear and pride can drive us to justify harmful actions. Yet, Jesus reveals a different path, one of sacrificial love. His selfless example calls us to repentance and genuine love for others. Let us reflect on our own hearts, acknowledging where fear and pride may hinder our ability to love as Jesus did. May we embrace His unconditional love, seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings, and strive to live lives that reflect His transformative love to the world.*

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Thursday

Passover

**Matthew 26:20–29**

*When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”*

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”*



If you were to walk into my home, the first thing that would immediately stand out are the numerous family photos on the living room walls. They are a constant reminder of the unending love the members of my family share with one another, the events experienced together, and the blessing of God's first covenantal community: the family.

In the same way, the Scripture's Old Testament serves as a picture of the life, ministry, and purpose of the Messiah. All of Scripture points to Christ. The rock in the wilderness struck by Moses' staff pours out life sustaining water. The scapegoat, on which the sins of the people were laid, is banished into the wilderness. The bronze serpent Moses held up in the wilderness reveals a smitten savior bringing healing and restoration to the people of God.

Few pictures, though, paint such a stunning and glorious depiction of Christ as the story of the Passover. A special meal, Passover, was to be meticulously prepared and eaten, with all the leftovers burned in the fire, leaving nothing behind. Even more graphically, the Israelites were to take blood of the perfect, spotless lamb, and paint their doorposts with it. They were told the angel of the Lord would descend on Egypt that night and all whose homes were covered in blood would be spared. This task would not only save their first-born children from certain death, but it would also serve as a reminder (a picture, if you will) for centuries to come of the fulfilled promise of temporary freedom, and an everlasting freedom still to come.

The Passover meal would be a central part of the Jewish religious calendar for centuries and it was this meal that Jesus shared with His disciples on the night that He was betrayed. Though each element of the meal gave a glimpse of the coming Christ, Jesus chose the unleavened bread and the shared cup to permanently reflect His purpose and promise: His sacrament.

- David Lowman  
Battle Ground Campus

Reflect

*Today, it is important to focus on the beauty found in the beautiful, horrible elements. They are pictures of a broken body, torn asunder, whose hands, feet, back, head and side poured out His precious blood. The meal is free, but it cost everything for us to partake. Christ willingly laid down His body, allowed it to be broken, shredded beyond recognition, and opened His veins so that His blood could bring nourishment and forgiveness.*

*As you reflect on the Passover meal today, identify where you strive for relief from your sin; spend some time in prayer thanking Christ for covering you with His blood that death might pass over you. Then enter into Jesus' invitation, "Come...I will give you rest."*

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Friday

## *The Road to Golgotha*

### **Matthew 27:27–34**

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.*

Jesus, the true peacemaker, purchased my peace with God. Such a high price! As He endured the broken brutality of humanity, I must pause to reflect on the question, what does that say about the ugliness of sin? This account is rock bottom; degradation wholly undeserved, power abused, punishment inflicted unjustly. Is my offense at this story of mocking, abuse, and dehumanization a righteous offense or merely the offense of my sensibilities?

The Holy One, the Perfect One, entrusted Himself to our fallen hands. This should not be! It is me, the imperfect, unholy who should be in His hands. Yet, I am the mocker; it is me who has disrespected the Son. It is my sin that mocks the true King. Every time I choose my own way, tossing aside my worship of Him to replace it with worship of myself, I may as well shout like the Roman guards, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

My desire to look away, to flinch at the brutality of these acts, should warn my heart against the depravity of humanity in me and shout of my need for a Savior. The horror I imagine in my mind's eye recollects the dreaded phrase from Judges, "Everyone did what was right in their own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

Jesus came to save, but He saved by death. No one expected it. The irony of the innocent, come to die for the guilty. The Peacemaker brought us shalom by way of brutality and chaos. How deep the Father's love for us must be, to endure and not turn His face from us. Instead, as Christ, the Christ, stumbles to His death, the Father turns His face from Jesus. My sin, my guilt, the depth of my depravity on His shoulders, borne in every lash, every taunt. It was my sin that held Him there, like nails. My God, my God, you did not forsake me. What a mystery!

- Sarah Glassett

Heritage Park Campus

## Reflect

*As you pause to reflect today, prepare your hearts for the Good Friday services. Are you merely offended by the cross, or is your offense directed at your sin? Each of our sins makes a mockery of our Lord. We jeer, like the Roman soldiers, denying His kingship, perhaps not in words, but in our actions, and, ultimately, our heart.*

*Our peace with God was purchased with a price. Where do you need to cultivate a more serious attitude toward sin? What lies have you believed, allowing you to entertain thoughts, ideas, or deeds you have branded as "not really a big deal"? Remember, Christ died for those sins, too. Spend some time in confession, admitting your need for a Savior, and thank God that He did not forsake you, but instead came to **rescue** you.*

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# Saturday

## *Guarding the Tomb*

### **Matthew 27:62–66**

*The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise!’ Therefore, order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

Imagine the scene: the chaos of Good Friday has subsided, and Jesus, the Son of God, lies silent in the tomb. In their fear of deception, the religious leaders requested guards to secure the tomb. And so, a stone is rolled in place, sealing the entrance, and a silence descends upon the land.

In this silence, I am confronted with the weight of what has transpired. The earth seems to hold its breath in anticipation of what is to come. The disciples, gripped by grief and confusion, grapple with the reality of their shattered hopes. And I, too, find myself wrestling with questions, doubts, and uncertainties.

In the midst of the deafening silence, I wonder: Where is the promise of deliverance? Has hope been extinguished? Is this truly the end of the story? Yet, even as I wrestle with these questions, I am reminded that silence does not signify absence.

In the silence of Holy Saturday, I am invited to trust in the unseen, to cling to the promises of God, and to await the dawn of a new day. For I know that even in the darkest moments, God is at work, bringing forth new life from death.

As I reflect on the silence of Holy Saturday, I choose to embrace the tension of waiting with faith and hope. I surrender my doubts and fears, knowing that God hears my cries and understands my heart. I trust in the God who works in the deafening silence, bringing forth beauty from the ashes.

In this moment of quiet reflection, I offer up my questions, doubts, and uncertainties to God. I allow the silence to speak to my soul, drawing me closer to the heart of God. And in the stillness, I find peace — a peace that surpasses all understanding.

- Kyle Wetzler

Heritage Park Campus

## Reflect

*Embrace the silence of Holy Saturday with faith and hope. May you trust in the God who brings forth life from death and who promises to never leave you nor forsake you. And may the deafening silence of this day remind you of the profound truth of Easter: death has been conquered, and new life awaits!*

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Sunday

*Easter*

Join us at your local campus to celebrate the next part of the story.  
Jesus didn't remain silent in the grave; He. Is. Risen. Join us as  
we rejoice in this miraculous truth and experience the power of  
resurrection firsthand.

Consider making one last invitation to friends and family to join us  
in this celebration of new life.

For further details on our gathering times, visit our website at  
[www.summitview.net](http://www.summitview.net).

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



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