

Faithbrook Easter Week 2020 Devotionals

Monday: Temple Cleared - Read Mark 11:15-17 & 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

All worship revolved around the Temple. It was the central place of worship for the Jewish people. It was here they came singing praises. It was here that sacrifices were offered on the altar. It was here that the Presence of God dwelled within the Holy of Holies. The priests were those who stood as intercessors between the people of God and Yahweh Himself. They were the keepers of the Temple.

Paul declared that we were now God's Temple. His Spirit dwells in us. Our bodies become the Temple of the Living God. He declares the temple where the Spirit dwells is sacred. He comes to us in love and we become a nation of priests, interceding for others.

Has he cleared your temple of all the things that get in the way of truly worshipping Him, that get in the way of us being that sacred place where the Spirit can dwell?

Prayer:

- *That your body, your temple will be filled with His Presence*
- *Intercede for some person in your life who needs to know Jesus*

Tuesday: A Betrayal and A Denial - Read Matthew 26:14-16 & Luke 22:54-62

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver – the price of a slave. During their last meal together, he sat next to Jesus as an honored guest. Knowing what Judas was going to do, Jesus did not reject him but showed him love.

Peter, one of the inner three, one of those closest to Jesus, denied that he even knew the Man. He followed close enough to be recognized and questioned. Jesus looked straight into Peter's eyes after the denial and let Peter know that He still knew Peter.

One went out and killed himself. One went out and wept, repented and was reconciled to Jesus. We can be a Judas or a Peter. We might betray or we might deny. In either case, Jesus' love remains. The question is whether we come out of our failure running from or running to Him.

Prayer: Psalm 139:23-24

- *Allow Him to change you into the person He wants you to be*

Wednesday: Basin and Towel - Read John 13:3-15

Jesus leaves an example of servanthood. The Lord of lords and King of kings kneels before each of His disciples and with love, in humility washes their dirty feet. And then says that they should all do the same.

The call to each of us is to be a servant to others. If we are to follow Jesus, we have to learn to take up the basin and the towel.

Prayer: That God would lead you to someone who needs you to serve them

Thursday: Gethsemane - Read Matthew 26:36-46

This place in Hebrew is "gat shemanim" which means the oil press. This is a place where the olives were pressed into oil. Olives are placed in sacks and then those sacks are stacked on top of each other. A large beam is lowered onto the stack with increasing weight pressing down on them. The more weight that is applied, the more oil is obtained.

On this night the weight of the world is pressing down on Jesus. Three times he asks that the cup be removed. Three times the answer is "no". Jesus shares in our experience of grief, pain, alienation, rejection. He wrestles with the Father, with the mission and then follows in obedience.

How many times have we struggled with what life brings our way? We don't know what to do or how we'll get through. This picture of Jesus is an invitation to surrender, to step into the place of sacrifice, to acknowledge that God's plan, whatever it might be, is the perfect plan for us.

Is there a weight on you today? Are you struggling, unsure of how to go on? Find that place of surrender.

Prayer: Isaiah 40:28-31

- *For strength for the weary*
- *For power for the weak*
- *For hope for these times*

Friday: The Cross - Read Isaiah 53 & Matthew 27:27-50

Reflect on the meaning of the cross for you.

Prayer: Psalm 51:1-17

Saturday: Burial - Read John 20:38-41

Stepping into the limelight are two who had remain followers in secret. Joseph of Arimathea feared the Jews and so followed in secret. Nicodemus, a teacher of the Jews, had come to Jesus at night, in secret. These two men left their fears behind and stepped forward to take the body of Jesus for burial.

How often are we afraid to speak up out of fear that others will laugh, reject, ridicule, turn away? Let's not wait until it's too late but step forward and acknowledge to the world that we are followers of Jesus, no matter what the cost.

Prayer:

- *For boldness to share our faith with others*
- *For opportunity to come our way*
- *For people to cross our paths who need Jesus*

Sunday is on the way!