

Lent
2024

COME & SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

2024 Holy Week Devotionals

Welcome to Holy Week 2024 devotionals. In this final installment of devotionals, we will take a different approach to presenting them. The devotionals will place us in fictional conversations between Jesus' disciples on Monday through Friday. Through these conversations, we will find the lessons to be learned from the chosen set of verses. On Saturday, we will listen to a discussion between the Centurion at the cross and his wife. We will examine how the events that transpired on a given day impacted the lives and thinking of those witnessing the events. We will also consider how their encounters reflect in our lives today.

Holy Week can be a difficult time for Christians. Our time of reflection in Lent draws us closer, and we are shown the total weight of our sins in the humiliation and suffering of Jesus on the cross. The days leading up to His crucifixion are filled with times of joy, sadness, and betrayal. Reflecting upon these days in Holy Week, we are given opportunities to consider our lives and faith in Christ.

Pam and I hope you are blessed by your time spent studying God's Word through these devotionals.

Leaning on Jesus

Forest & Pam Holmes

All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Much of the technical and theological practices of biblical times used in these devotionals come from the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary.

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Holy Week - Monday. That Top of The World Feeling

John 12:12-16 & 18-19 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

The conversation depicted in the following is not from scripture. It comes from the author's mind capturing what the disciples may have shared at the time.

James and John are following Jesus into Jerusalem. As they are walking along, we pick up what their conversation may have been. "John, can you believe this crowd? They are going bonkers for Jesus! They call Him the King of Israel and say He comes in the name of the Lord. The word of His preaching, healing, and miracles has reached Jerusalem, and the people love Him." John shares a wary look with his brother. "I'm worried, my brother. All this attention will not please the Romans, nor will it go over well with the Sanhedrin. Did you hear those Pharisees back there? They are worried the world is going after our Rabbi. His cousin John called them a brood of vipers. And remember what happened to him. The people calling Him King could send them off the deep end. We've heard rumblings of plots to remove Him by the religious leaders. He is a threat to their cushy lives. And the Romans do not like crowd scenes like this. This can go bad very quickly." James looks astonished. He replies, "John, you worry too much. Look at this crowd! The people will not let the Sanhedrin do evil to Jesus. The price they would pay would be too much. But you are correct about the Romans. We had better hope this crowd disperses quickly and quietly."

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is a turning point in His ministry. We can imagine how rewarding it must have felt for them to witness Jesus being received with palm fronds and cloaks laid out on His path, just as royalty or a conquering hero is received. To hear the people shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel," must have been intoxicating.

We temper our joy by knowing how events played out for Jesus' disciples. Their happiness would turn to fear and disillusionment in a few short days. They would forget what we know to be true. Jesus' resurrection is the hope we have today. The righteousness imparted to us by His sacrifice must influence our lives. We have been given forgiveness of our sins at a horrible cost. And so, while we felt the joy on Palm Sunday, we knew that joy came at a terrible price. Let us live lives worthy of that sacrifice.

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