

New Song Church

Holy Week Reflections

2024

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By Pastor Richard Probasco

Reflections on Jesus for Holy Week 2024

Without a doubt, there is no time in the history of the world that is deserving of our focus and attention than the biblical and historical account of the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, there is not enough time to deliver the details of facts regarding the conspiracy between political officials, religious leaders, Jewish authorities, and other magistrates to bring a totally innocent man to trial and conviction in the middle of the night to be crucified – the most horrific manner of torturous death known to mankind.

This week of Bible study reflections should bring an awareness to the things that we have called social injustice, inequity, racial prejudice, violation of human rights, and a plethora of other violations that were endured by Jesus who never declared His innocence, offered no defense, and never responded or pleaded innocence. Though ridiculed and made to suffer the most inhumane treatment, He never offered any defense.

Our scripture readings will contain dialogue from the gospels that capture Jesus and His accusers during several 'night court' episodes held at several locations without there being any witnesses and Jesus not having anyone to represent Him in defense.

The recorded accounts of the trials that Jesus faced will give you an idea of the most fraudulent case in the history of the world that declared an innocent man to be put death by the most torturous death known to the world.

We cannot truly celebrate the risen Savior without understanding His demonstration of love and sacrifice He made to grant us the gift of eternal life.

Our study for Holy Week will cover Jesus' final hours as He was put on trial and sent from court to court where there was no evidence of wrongdoing submitted and no witnesses called to testify for or against Him.

Have a blessed week.

~Pastor Richard Probasco

Monday, March 25, 2024

**Read: Prayer in the Garden
Betrayal and arrest**

**Luke 22: 39-46
Luke 22: 47-53**

Questions:

1. What temptation do you believe Jesus was warning His disciples about?
2. What do you believe Jesus was struggling with when He asked His Father's will in relation to what He was about to face?
3. What was the temptation Jesus was warning His disciples about?
4. What do you believe was in the heart of Judas when he tried to kiss Jesus?
5. Why was Jesus' exposure Judas' motives important to be revealed?
6. What do you believe Jesus was meaning when He asked "permit even this"?
7. What do you believe Jesus was showing when He healed the ear of the servant of the high priest?
8. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement "This is your hour and the power of Darkness"?

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Read: **Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin**

Matthew 26: 57-68

Questions:

1. How do you believe Caiaphas the high priest, the scribes and the elders were able to be assembled in the late hours of the day?
2. What do you believe kept the scribes and elders from finding evidence against Jesus?
3. How did Jesus ward off the false testimony of those who were coming against Him?
4. What was Jesus saying when He said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God in three days and rebuild it in three days”?
5. Why do you suppose Jesus kept silent when words of accusation were spoken against Him?
6. Why did Jesus refuse to answer the question as to whether or not He was Christ directly?
7. What is your understanding of the word “blasphemy”?
8. What was the basis of the decision of those who were interrogating Jesus that caused them to believe He was worthy of death?

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Read: Jesus Faces Pilate

Taking the Place of Barabbas

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Mark 15: 1-5

Mark 15: 6-15

Mark 15: 16-20

Questions:

1. Why did they make the decision to send Jesus before Pilate?
2. What do you believe was the motive of gathering all of these officials in the middle of the night for this trial that had no formal charges?
3. What might have been Pilate's motive for asking, "are you king of the Jews"?
4. What does Jesus' decision not to answer the question tell you about Him?
5. What do you believe was Pilate's motive to ask the crowd about releasing Jesus or Barabbas?
6. Do you believe in the sincerity of Pilate's statement questioning what has Jesus done that He should suffer crucifixion?
7. Why do you believe Pilate's unanswered question "what has He done?" was left unanswered?
8. What do you believe was Pilate's scourging of Jesus before he delivered Him over to the crowd?

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Read: The Soldiers Mock Jesus

John 19: 1-4

Pilate's Decision

John 19: 5-16

The King on a Cross

John 19: 17-24

Behold Your Mother

John 19: 25-27

Questions:

1. What do you believe was Pilate's motive for saying "I find no fault in this man?"
2. When Pilate made the statement "behold the Man" what do you believe was his motive and conviction of who He believed Jesus to be?
3. Would it be reasonable to say that Pilate feared the Jews more than he feared God?
4. What does Jesus' lack of response to the question "where are You from?" reveal to you about His encounter with Pilate?
5. What does Jesus' challenge to Pilate regarding his authority over Him affect his decision to try to free Him?
6. What do you think Pilate meant when he said "Behold Your King"?
7. Why do you believe Pilate did not change the writing on the cross that proclaimed Jesus to be the king of the Jews?
8. What example can you gain from Jesus Making provision for the care of His mother after His death?

Friday, March 29, 2024

Read: The King on a Cross

Luke 23: 26-43

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23: 44-49

Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

Luke 23: 50-56

Questions:

1. What do you believe might be the significance of Simon, a Cyrenian carrying the cross for Jesus?
2. How does the impact of Jesus statement "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do?" affect you personally?
3. Have you experienced mockery personally because of your commitment to follow Jesus?
4. When one of the men that was crucified with Jesus acknowledged his need of Jesus, what message does that give you to convey to others who need to know that Jesus can forgive them?
5. How can you personally apply the words "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" to your life?
6. What were the signs that indicated to the centurion That Jesus was a righteous man?
7. Why would Joseph ask Pilate for the body of Jesus?
8. What do you think was Pilate's motive to give away the body of Jesus to Joseph?

Saturday, March 30, 2024

Read: **He Is Risen**

Matthew 28: 1-8

The Women Worship the Risen Lord

Matthew 28: 9-10

The Soldiers Are Bribed

Matthew 28: 11-15

The Great Commission

Matthew 28: 16-20

Questions:

1. Why, do you suppose that the two Marys were fearful to learn that Jesus was no longer in the grave?
2. When Jesus met the two women and declared for them to “rejoice” what do you believe that did to their faith?
3. Why did Jesus commission the two women to tell others that He was alive?
4. Why, do you suppose that the doubt about the resurrection of Jesus is still a matter of doubt in the minds of many people?
5. Why do you suppose that some of the disciples were still dealing with doubt about the resurrection of Jesus?
6. How can we make disciples of all men as Jesus commanded us to do?
7. How do you personally believe that Jesus’ presence is with you always.
8. How can you fulfill the commandment to make disciples of all men?