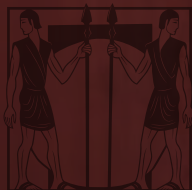




# PASSION WEEK DEVOTIONAL



A day-by-day walk  
through the final  
week of Jesus' life



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## **A WORD FROM THE ELDERS OF HOPE CHURCH**

The events of Passion Week are quite literally the most important events in human history. The word “passion” here is not used in the usual English sense, but rather its older Latin root meaning “suffering”. So, “Passion Week” refers to the events that displayed the intense suffering and immense love of Jesus Christ in the final week of his life.

Some of us have known Jesus for several years and we feel quite familiar with Easter. Others of us have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus very recently. Perhaps this is your very first Easter as a believer. Still, others are searching for hope, peace and love.

Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, we are praying for a renewed vision of Jesus Christ and what he’s done for us. Join us each day, as we fast and meditate together on the truths of Passion Week.

May the Lord, by His Spirit, use this devotional guide to captivate our thoughts, stir our affections, and inspire lives of deep worship.

You are loved,

- The Elders of Hope Church Toronto West

## HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

We're looking forward to celebrating Passion Week by intentionally spending time in fasting and meditating on God's Word together. Each day of this devotional will guide us through some of the important events of Jesus's last week on earth and what it means for us today.

We suggest that you plan and schedule some time alone, or with your family, to use this devotional to help you meditate on the significance of Passion Week as we fast together. Perhaps that might be your lunch hour, or maybe first thing in the morning. Whatever works for you, put it in your calendar and keep that appointment.

Each devotional is written by one of our church staff or elders and has four main components:

- **Scripture** - on the left-hand page you'll find the scripture passage for the day.
- **Notes** - below the scripture, there is space for you to write some notes or reflections on the day's Bible passage and devotional.
- **Meditate** - these are questions designed to help you meditate on the implications of the passage and devotional for your life.
- **Pray** - this is an introductory line of prayer to help you respond to God and what He is speaking to you through His Word.



### Using the QR Codes

At the bottom of each devotional you'll see a square QR code. These link to helpful short videos from Crossway Publishers of solid Bible teachers who explain a little more about the events of that particular day of Passion Week.

**For iPhone** - simply open your camera app and point it at the QR code square. When the notification pops up, click it.

**For Android** - open your camera app and select Google Lens and point it at the QR square. When the notification pops up, click it.

### TRY IT OUT! >>>

Try scanning this QR Code to read a short article on fasting for beginners from Desiring God.





## **Luke 19:37-42** ***Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King***

<sup>37</sup>When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

<sup>38</sup> “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

<sup>40</sup> “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

<sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# Christ has come to bring us peace

by Daniel Manickam



## DEVOTIONAL

Sunday

Today we find ourselves on Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the events that lead to the death of Jesus Christ; the plot to kill him, his betrayal, his unjust trial and his crucifixion. But today, we don't hear the crowds cry out, "crucify him, crucify him," rather they cheer, "crown him, crown him." Jesus was their long-awaited King who had now come to Jerusalem to finally bring them peace.

However, the peace they were crying out for was not the peace that Jesus had come to give them. The cheering crowds were desperate for political peace. In their minds, who else but the deaf healer, the dead raiser, the demon chaser, Jesus Christ, to lead them in their holy war? But what they didn't realize was that at the very same moment, they had a much bigger problem, they were at war with a Holy God. The greatest threat to their peace was not their human oppressors, but the oppression of sin. Their sins were that of rebellion against God. Their self-love and disobedience was a revolution against God, and what they needed most, and what we need most, is peace with God.

They couldn't see the peace Jesus was offering, because they didn't want to see it. If Jesus didn't offer them the peace they wanted, then he wasn't the King they wanted. Yet Jesus still comes to bring them peace, even knowing that he would suffer and die at their hands. It was their sin and our sin that brought Jesus to Jerusalem. It was for their peace and our peace that Jesus drew near to the cross. Jesus is committed to bringing us true peace, and weeps compassionately over our lack of peace, and soon will be crucified to bring us peace.



## MEDITATE

What peace are you desperate for today? How is the peace that Jesus offers far better than any other peace we can find in this life?



## PRAY

Lord Jesus you came to bring us peace, you suffered and died so that we could be reconciled to God. Forgive us when we take your peace for granted and help us see that peace with God is what we need most. Amen.



## Matthew 21:12-16

### *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, <sup>16</sup> and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?"

And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

**Notes** | Use this space to write your notes & reflections

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# The Cleansing We Need

by Jason Matta



**DEVOTIONAL**

**Monday**

Fresh off the excitement of the triumphal entry, every eye was on Jesus. How would he begin to establish His Kingdom in Jerusalem? But what would happen next was both unexpected and shocking.

In a seemingly uncharacteristic way, Jesus forcefully and authoritatively came into the temple and began flipping over tables. You may think to yourself, “that doesn’t sound like Jesus”, but what we need to understand is that Jesus was righteously angry about what was happening in the temple. The temple was the place of worship, but over time it became a place where people were making a profit off of so-called “worship”. The animals that were necessary for sacrifice were being sold at excessive prices and the worshippers were taken advantage of because of greed. So with zeal and passion, Jesus stormed into the temple not only to pronounce judgement for this great sin but more importantly, to present himself as the very solution.

In the Old Testament, God’s presence was in the temple. As Jesus entered the physical temple, a new reality dawned. No longer was God’s presence restricted to this physical place, Jesus Himself was the presence of God made flesh. He was the perfect sacrifice for sin. He was the perfect Priest to mediate between God and man. D.A Carson wrote, “The temple was designed to teach that the only approach to God for sinful human beings are by means that God himself ordained, by the sacrifices that God himself has commanded, by the shed blood that God himself prescribes, and all of this is hammered into the nation of Israel pointing forward to the need for a sacrifice that will finally deal with sin...”

On Monday, Jesus passionately cleansed the temple, foreshadowing the cleansing we all need. Soon he would go to the Cross to provide an even more pervasive cleansing. The cleansing of our hearts.



**MEDITATE**

Do you ever feel too dirty to come to God? Do you need a fresh start today? What prevents you from coming to Jesus for cleansing today?



**PRAY**

Lord Jesus, I worship you for your sacrifice. Please forgive me for the many sins that have stained my heart and robbed me of peace. I’m coming to you now, please cleanse my heart today. In Jesus Name, Amen.



# By What Authority?

by Vince Leung



DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday

The day after cleansing the temple, we find Jesus at the temple again. As Jesus was teaching, the chief priests and elders came and questioned Jesus. The religious leaders loved the power they had as the religious authorities. However, Jesus posed a major threat to them and they saw the cleansing of the temple as a direct challenge to their authority. So, they wanted to trap Jesus by asking him, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" (v. 23).

Seeing through their scheme, Jesus responds with a question of his own, "The baptism of John, from where did it come?" (v. 25). The religious leaders found themselves in a quandary. If they said that John's baptism was from heaven, then they are admitting that Jesus' authority is from heaven since John proclaimed that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). On the other hand, if they said John's baptism was from man, they were afraid that the crowd would turn on them because many regarded John as a prophet. So, they answered, "We do not know." In a single question, Jesus exposed their hypocrisy. They did not care for the truth, they just wanted to cling to their power.

Unlike the chief priests and elders, Jesus has true power. In fact, all authority has been given to him (Matt. 28:18). However, Jesus did not use his authority to lord it over others. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem was not to assert his divine authority to overthrow the religious leaders or to conquer the Roman Empire. Instead, he exercised his divine authority by laying down his life (John 10:18) to overthrow sin and to conquer death. Therefore, let us joyfully worship him and humbly submit to his divine authority.



## MEDITATE

Are you joyfully submitting to Jesus' authority? Are there areas in your life where you are questioning/rejecting Jesus' authority? What is preventing you from fully submitting to Him?



## PRAY

Lord Jesus, I praise you that all authority on heaven and earth belongs to you. Please forgive me and show me the areas of my life where I am not submitting to you. O Lord, please help me to submit to your authority humbly and joyfully.



# The Compassionate Christ Draws Near

by April Pitman



**DEVOTIONAL**

**Wednesday**

The climax of the redemptive story was days away. By the week's end, sin and death would finally face a worthy adversary. Adam had tried and failed. Even with the hope of a world wiped of sin, Noah had still failed. Gospel hope was first whispered to Adam and Eve with the promise of offspring to crush the head of the snake (Gen. 3:15). Christ was the promised One - the conquering hero and the fulfillment of every whisper of salvation. In this epic story, what did Wednesday, a seemingly regular day, hold for Jesus?

In verse 37, we learn that Wednesday was a day of teaching. We recall how Jesus taught - not from a distance, but up close. He chose to eat, touch, and know those labelled unclean by society and even the religious. This in itself is revolutionary. His character is revealed by the people he chose to draw near to the sinner, the suffering, the broken, people like me. Consider Christ's unwavering compassion as He continually moves towards His people. He drew near so that we may draw near to him.

We learn that Jesus "went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet." He was homeless. With all of Heaven and Earth at his disposal, he chose to have no earthly status or possession. Christ's humility breaks any barriers for us to draw near to him. Christ could not have made himself any more low, which shows us we are welcomed in our lowly state.

We look with anticipation and excitement towards Sunday, but we can't overlook this regular Wednesday. The incarnate Christ, the God-Man, displaying his compassion, humbled himself so that we may feel safe to draw near to him.



**MEDITATE**

As I reflect on the people Christ chose to minister to, what attributes of his are on display? How does that compel me to draw near to him?



**PRAY**

Lord, I thank you that you came to me. Reveal to me if there is anything that keeps me from drawing near to you. Help me to see the welcome invitation that Christ provides no matter what.



## Mark 14:22-42

### Passover | The Lord's Supper

<sup>22</sup> And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."<sup>23</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."<sup>25</sup> Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God"...

<sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not."<sup>30</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."<sup>31</sup> But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same...

<sup>41</sup> And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."<sup>42</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

**Notes** | Use this space to write your notes & reflections

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# A Parable of Promised Provision

by Thaddeus Maharaj



DEVOTIONAL

Thursday

The context of the Lord's Supper was the Passover feast (see v.12) which God gave His people before their exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-13) as a covenant symbol to remember their deliverance from death through the blood of a spotless lamb. Each Passover, the Jewish father would lead the meal, explaining how each element was laden with symbolism to remind them of their redemption from slavery. They were to partake as if they themselves had been there in the Exodus.

Following the tradition, Jesus leads the meal but takes those same elements and gives them new covenant meaning. The Passover ritual began, "This is the bread of affliction that our forefathers ate in the land of Egypt." Jesus holds the Matza bread (which was unleavened, pierced with holes and burnt with stripes), breaks it and says, "this is my body." (v.22) He then takes the cup of thanksgiving (cf. 1 Cor. 10:16) and says, "this is my blood of the covenant" (v.24). Jesus is both the true spotless Passover Lamb who will be sacrificed to spare them from death (cf. 1 Cor. 5:7) and Yahweh, giving His people a new covenant sign - an enacted parable - before he goes to the Cross to accomplish their redemption.

After this, the disciples pridefully think they can stand on their own (v.29-31), fail to tarry in prayer (v.32-42) and all fall away (v.50). Jesus knew full well they would (v.27). Yet Christ had already promised them the provision he would make for their sins in the Lord's Supper. Grace was promised before their performance. And so with us, Christ has already accomplished our full redemption on the Cross even before we sin. Each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we partake as those who were themselves redeemed from our slavery to sin.



## MEDITATE

What sins do you need to be reminded are already provided for on the Cross? How amazing is it that God has provided for these sins from even before you were born? *Sing the hymn, "Rock of Ages"*.



## PRAY

Lord, how often I pridefully think I can stand on my own. I often fail to tarry in prayerful dependence on Your strength to keep me from temptation. But I thank You that Jesus Christ, our True Passover Lamb, has provided for my full deliverance from death through his blood.



## Mark 15:16-20, 27-39

### *Jesus is Mocked and Crucified*

<sup>16</sup> And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him...

<sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

<sup>33</sup> And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup> And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# Facing the Cross

by Deepika Manickam



## DEVOTIONAL

Friday

Many voices are heard crying out in Mark 15:16-39. The Roman soldiers cried, "Hail, King of the Jews," the bystanders taunted, "save yourself and come down from the cross," the chief priests and scribes mocked, "He saved others; he cannot save himself," and even the criminals reviled him. Yet, amidst all these mocking voices, there are two more voices that Mark highlights. The cry of our Saviour giving up his life, and the voice of a centurion as he proclaims, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

The centurion faced the cross, as He heard Jesus' final cries to God. He faced the cross, as he saw Jesus give his last breath. He faced the cross, as he witnessed the power of Jesus' death. As the centurion faced the cross he was compelled to proclaim that Jesus Christ truly was the Son of God. How often do I face the cross? How often do I see the powerful love of my Savior and His authority as the Son of God displayed on the cross?

We see in the other gospel accounts of Christ's crucifixion, that Jesus chose the very moment He would give up His life when he cried "It is Finished." Through his death, he fulfilled Scripture in every way (Read Psalm 22). If we look back to what the mockers said, we can ask: Was Jesus the King of the Jews? Could He have come down from the cross and saved Himself? Yes. But Jesus refuses to save Himself so that he could save us. He died so that I may live, may this fuel my heart in worship of Him.



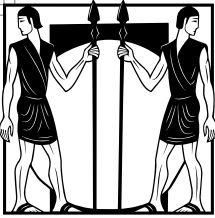
## MEDITATE

As I turn my face to Jesus on the cross, what can I worship Him for? How does Jesus' death on the cross reveal His authority as the Son of God and His love for me?



## PRAY

Lord Jesus, I worship you for you truly are the son of God. You chose to die so that I may live. You who could come down the cross, stayed there on my behalf. Thank you Lord. Forgive me for not reflecting on your powerful work on the Cross enough. Would you please grow my heart in worship of you. Amen



## Matthew 27:62-66

### *The Guard at the Tomb*

<sup>62</sup>The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ <sup>64</sup>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.”

<sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# A Seal, A Stone, and A Soldier

by Joyceson Canagaratnam



**DEVOTIONAL**

**Saturday**

Jesus' death has not alleviated the anxieties of his enemies and his words of rising from the dead (John 2:19) still haunts them. The Pharisees exhaust all human intervention to make sure that this so-called "Messiah" does not turn the hearts of their people away from the existing religious institution, even after his death. Natural barriers are enforced to ensure that the dead Jesus of Nazareth remains in his tomb. However, no seal, no stone, and no soldier could stop the fulfillment of the supernatural word of God.

The attempts of Jesus' enemies to discredit his words only helped fuel greater credibility to his resurrection from the dead. There was no way of stopping a supernatural work of God by natural human means. While it is quite possible that Jesus' disciples were distraught and heartbroken by his death, the added scrutiny and security only intensified their opposition. But God ordained history to testify to Jesus' empty tomb under the careful attention of skeptics and the unbelieving in order to magnify the authenticity of his Son as the Truth, Life, and Resurrection.

We can say with Jesus' disciples: the word of the Lord proves true. Jesus, the Son of God, came so that we may experientially know him. What better place to see God's resounding faithfulness to his promises than in the place of fierce opposition against us? Maybe in this season you can relate with Jesus' heartbroken disciples. Do not permit natural visible oppositions to keep you from crying out to Jesus Christ to fulfill his faithful supernatural promises to you. Be patient and endure, so that you also can rejoice with Jesus' disciples when your Saviour does his work in your life.



## **MEDITATE**

What oppositions are you facing from which you can trust God to save you? Can you believe the word of God to be more real than your challenges?



## **PRAY**

Lord Jesus, you are the Yes and Amen to my prayers. May I see the wonders of your work in the promises of your words. I will look on you as my refuge and hope. As your words have declared, may I not be put to shame.



# Matthew 28:1-8

## *The Resurrection*

<sup>1</sup>Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# Worship the Risen Christ

**Everyday**

Jesus Christ has risen and ascended where he reigns at the right hand of the Father (cf. Eph. 1:20-22). The resurrection of Christ shows us that God vindicated his death, that he accomplished our salvation and is coming back again to judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:30-31). This is great news for us and compels us to worship, witness and work for Christ. The truth of the resurrection that first Easter Sunday must necessarily transform the way we live today.

Because Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord, we join in worship with the myriads of heavenly hosts who sing out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:12)

Since all authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Christ, we go boldly to witness and make disciples of all people, trusting his promise to never leave us (Matt. 28:18-20).

Because Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Master, we work heartily as his ambassadors in whatever vocation he has called us. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17) For all of life is to be lived to the glory of God (cf. 1 Cor. 10:31).

The apostle Paul said, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19) because he expected that we should be living in such a way that we put all our hope in him. Let's worship, witness and work for him with our all because he has risen indeed!



## **MEDITATE**

How does your life today reflect the reality of the resurrection? How would you be "of all people most to be pitied" if the resurrection were not true?



## **PRAY**

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26), and therefore we have unshakeable hope not only in this life, but the life to come. Help me to glorify you as the Resurrected and Returning King with all of my life!



For more info about the Gospel and what it means for your life,  
please visit

**[HOPECHURCHTW.CA/GOSPEL](https://hopechurchtw.ca/gospel)**



**YOU ARE LOVED**