



Holy
Week
Devotionals

Holy Week Devotional

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Mark 8:31–33 CSB

HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION PREDICTED

31 Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. 32 He spoke openly about this. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns."

Mark 9:30–32 CSB

THE SECOND PREDICTION OF HIS DEATH

30 Then they left that place and made their way through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know it. 31 For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after he is killed, he will rise three days later." 32 But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

Mark 10:32–34 CSB

THE THIRD PREDICTION OF HIS DEATH

32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were astonished, but those who followed him were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him. 33 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 and they will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him, and he will rise after three days."

Mark 11:1–11 CSB

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

1 When they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and told them, "Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here right away.' " 4 So they went and found a colt outside in the street, tied by a door. They untied it, 5 and some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 They answered them just as Jesus had said; so they let them go. 7 They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their clothes on the road, and others spread leafy branches cut from the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted:

Hosanna!

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!**

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

11 He went into Jerusalem and into the temple. After looking around at everything, since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Palm Sunday

by Terry Bostick

What a confusing time in the life of the disciples this Sunday would have been for them. Three times on the way from Galilee to Jerusalem Jesus prepared the disciples for what was coming when he reached Jerusalem. He told them that the leaders in Jerusalem would mock him, and beat him, and eventually kill him. Yet, as they enter the city on this Sunday people are cheering and shouting. The throng of people at the gates to the city revel in the "celebrity" of Jesus while oblivious to the coming rage of evil about to be poured out on this "Son of Man". I can only imagine the deep level of confusion for the disciples, surely now their leader was accepted and they were all out of danger. The leafy branches of a royal entry and excited shouts of hosanna ring hollow with the knowledge that in just a few short days that royal entry will turn into a dusty, bloody, sweat-laden path and the shouts of hosanna will be replaced with angry calls to crucify this Jesus. I am struck by the seeming oddity of verse eleven. Jesus rides the colt into Jerusalem, all the way to the temple, looks around for a little while and then leaves unceremoniously to go to the other side of Kidron Valley to Bethany, just a few miles from Jerusalem. A rowdy crowd, confused disciples, and a calm Jesus. A Jesus that knows what horror awaits yet calmly walking in the will of His Father.

In my own journey of following after Christ, I like many of you reading this, have been confused about what God is doing in my life. I do not know whether I should rejoice or mourn. Which way should I go? What is God's will for my life? Why has God let this happen to me? Why has God let this happen to _____? God, I do not understand what is happening! Maybe this story of Jesus' Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem could help us when confusion and frustration enter our journey. First, the disciples were obedient. They did as they were told with incomplete understanding. Go get the colt. Give this answer when asked a question. Simple. Second, God had already provided. The colt was right where Jesus said it would be. The people were there and when the disciples answered their question, the colt was theirs to take. Third, Jesus was in complete control the whole time. Not the crowd's enthusiasm, not the religious leaders' evil plots, not even the disciples' confusion could move Jesus from accomplishing the will of the Father. We can trust that in the middle of our confusion, desperation, or hopelessness that our Savior is still in control. Trust Him. Obey Him. Find His peace. Find His presence. You are His!

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to make His presence and peace a reality in your life even as you struggle. Ask God to give you the strength to be obedient to Him when you are confused and desperate. Thank God for saving you and adopting you into His family. You are His!

Holy Week Devotional

Monday, March 30, 2026

Mark 11:12-14 CSB

12 The next day when they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to find out if there was anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. 14 He said to it, **"May no one ever eat fruit from you again!"** And his disciples heard it.

The Curse of The Fig Tree

by Colt Landreth

A tree is a symbol for life and prosperity. You can find numerous Bible verses that use a tree poetically to describe the health of various things. Many cultures, including America, have adapted trees or plant life to represent health or wellness. The same is true for Israel. The fig tree represented the nation of Israel and was seen as a good thing. Though, what we understand as "good" is not always what God desires to bless.

Our story picks up right after Jesus was at the temple. Mark 11:11 says, **"He looked around at everything** (*pertaining to the temple*)," which reminds me of when I was growing up and my parents saw my messy room. Or, when it is laundry day and Mrs. Landreth can see that I have not done the "proper" amount of laundry. When you see the look, you know something is coming. I imagine Jesus giving this look when He was in the temple. But, it is what Jesus does to the fig tree that really foreshadows what will take place in the temple just a few verses later.

It is important to know that Jesus and His disciples were attending the Passover festival, as all good Jews would have been doing. So, their traveling from Bethany was the trip required to attend all scheduled events. They were en route to the temple and Jesus decides to give an illustration to his disciples with a fig tree. He curses it saying, **"May no one ever eat fruit from you again!"** Poor tree, it is just minding its own business and then, BAM!, it is done for. But, to His disciples, this is a very difficult truth to accept.

Jesus is hungry and wants to eat, He needs to find that which would give him life. When He goes to the tree, there is no fruit. This is a reflection of Israel. He goes to the temple to find that the very place that should be providing life and holiness for all of Israel is providing none of that. The Jews in Jerusalem have twisted the purpose of the temple to fit their desires, not the desires of God. The temple was beautiful with its trimmings and gold just like the fig tree with its leaves, but it was without fruit.

We read later, after Jesus cleanses the temple, He and His disciples were walking by the fig tree and Peter mentions to Jesus that the tree has been withered. Jesus tells him, **"Have faith in God!"** The temple was meant to be a house of prayer and had become a den of robbers. So, Jesus helps Peter understand how true prayer works. I wonder if Peter could have understood true prayer when he visited the temple that day?

What does this mean for us? First and foremost, God's church is to be a house of prayer. A place where people can come to find life. Secondly, I believe Jesus is using the fig tree to reveal how humans mess it up. A church may have all the programs, most skilled musicians, most charismatic pastor, most beautiful sanctuary, but not have fruit. It becomes something man-made rather than crafted by God. I pray that we have faith in God and not in ourselves. That we would run from things that are enticing or tempting because it makes "us" look good. That we invite Jesus into our church for healing and fruit. May He receive all glory and honor for the fruit he supplies!

Holy Week Devotional

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Luke 21:34-36 CSB

34 "Be on guard so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly 35 like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

Living Awake

by Drake Oaks

During Holy Week, we celebrate the events leading up to the climax and cornerstone of the Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus has centered His teaching as the spiritual authority. The pressure for the religious leaders to arrest Jesus became stronger and He declared judgement was coming for them. Later that Tuesday afternoon, Jesus made his way with his disciples outside of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives, which overlooked the city. Jesus was revealing about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He gives us a warning in Luke 21:34-36. His teaching calls us to "be on guard so our minds are not dulled." Jesus wants you and I to be ready for his return! I do that by trusting in Him as Lord and Savior and in every area of my life. To always be alert and careful about the way I live my life, so I am not tricked into believing in myself or the things of this world.

Jesus was telling his disciples these things so they would be prepared! And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live a life that honors and glorifies Him and be ready for His return.

This week not only do we reflect, but we also challenge ourselves and strive to be more like Jesus in anticipation for His return.

Have you taken the most important step, accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?

How can you be "on guard" this week and remain faithful? What does that look like for you?

Are the everyday stresses consuming your every thought and focus?

How can you prepare your heart and align yourself with Jesus in light of the events to come this weekend?

Pray that your mind would not become dull in the everyday pursuit of Jesus. Pray that you will be alert. That your worries as small as they may be, to as large as they might seem would not consume your thoughts and focus but that you can hand it over to Jesus and trust that He is working all things out for your good and His glory. Pray you can align yourself with Him this Easter season as we continue through Holy Week.

Holy Week Devotional

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 CSB

27 So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body[h] and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body,[i] eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Romans 12:1 CSB

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Holy Wednesday: A Day of Reflection and Rest for a Purpose

By Robert José

As we approach Resurrection Sunday and all the festivities it entails, I think it is important for each of us to consider where we are in our spiritual journey. This falls in line with the events of the day as we consider what Wednesday would have looked like for Jesus and His disciples during Holy Week. We find Jesus resting in Bethany preparing the disciples for Passover. Those that recently saw Lazarus brought back to life either put their faith in Jesus or were ready for Him to be silenced. To rest in a time like this would have taken measures beyond just going about our normal day. We see this conflict in the same home where Jesus chose to rest with Martha and Mary. Martha is busy preparing physically cleaning and prepping for guests in their home. Mary is preparing spiritually and worshipfully to the point she pours one of her most cherished possessions, expensive perfume, on Jesus' feet compelled by the Spirit that this is the most appropriate way to show her love for her Savior.

Where does that leave you? Have you stopped to reflect on all that God has done for you? Jesus was our spotless lamb whose blood was shed for our sins so we could be saved from an eternity separated from God. He is our Passover. Are we too busy taking care of the things of this world even in our home to stop and think about how He has raised us from death to walk in newness of life? Jesus told His disciples in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 to examine ourselves before observing the Lord's Supper.

Consider for a moment the cup that He was about to drink from, His blood that was about to be spilt, and His body to be broken. Jesus was very purposeful in the days leading to His betrayal, His persecution, and His death. Our Lord and Savior was perfect and without sin. Yet, He took the time to reflect on His Father's will and rest to prepare His body to fulfill it. Will you do the same on this Holy Wednesday? Confess, repent, and live your life with purpose to fulfill His will.

Pause today reflecting on what God has done for you. May your focus be on Him and His will for your life. May you do so in such a way that the rest He gives you prepares you for taking the next step in your spiritual journey to honor, glorify, and worship Him and leaves you like Mary offering all you have at His feet. It is this Romans 12:1 posture that is most appropriate as we prepare to celebrate our Risen Savior this Easter Sunday. To do so is to fulfill our purpose just as Christ did.

Holy Week Devotional

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mark 14:32-40 CSB

32 Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, “**Sit here while I pray.**” 33 He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 He said to them, “**I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.**” 35 He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, “**Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.**” 37 Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “**Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?** 38 **Stay awake and pray so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**” 39 Once again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. 40 And again he came and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.

Praying in the Garden

By Taylor Carper

Maundy Thursday holds great importance in the Holy Week and we forget what Jesus did right before His betrayal, death, and resurrection. Jesus brings His three closest disciples (Peter, James, and John) to be with Him in His final moments before His betrayal and arrest. Jesus knew what was about to happen and He choose to do the one action that would leave Him vulnerable to the physical world but would hold huge spiritual importance, praying to the Father.

Jesus' choice to pray in His final moments of freedom shows us that prayer is what we need to be doing daily for multiple reasons. Throughout Jesus' ministry we see Him praying multiple times and even setting time aside to pray by Himself. Jesus teaches all His followers to pray daily. Jesus knew He was going to be betrayed and wanted His disciples to be with Him while He was vulnerable. Jesus choose praying to God even when He was about to endure the greatest pain of all time, the sin of all mankind upon Him.

Prayer Prompt: Father, help me dive deeper into prayer just like Jesus even when His enemies were surrounding Him.

Family Focus: What is something your family can pray for together?

Holy Week Devotional

Friday, April 3, 2026

Matthew 27:27-61CSB

Mocked by the Military

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's residence and gathered the whole company around him. 28 They stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet robe. 29 They twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and placed a staff in his right hand. And they knelt down before him and mocked him: "Hail, king of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on him, took the staff, and kept hitting him on the head. 31 After they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Crucified Between Two Criminals

32 As they were going out, they found a Cyrenian man named Simon. They forced him to carry his cross. 33 When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), 34 they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. 35 After crucifying him, they divided his clothes by casting lots. 36 Then they sat down and were guarding him there. 37 Above his head they put up the charge against him in writing: This Is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

38 Then two criminals were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him and said, 42 "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God rescue him now—if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him taunted him.

The Death of Jesus

45 From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness came over the whole land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eí, Eí, lemá sabachtháni?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling for Elijah."

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and offered him a drink. 49 But the rest said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

50 But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. 51 Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 And they came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

54 When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

55 Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him were there, watching from a distance. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus

57 When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. Then Pilate ordered that it be released. 59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped

it in clean, fine linen, 60 and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb.

Jesus is Crucified

by Jacob Jenkins

Suffering and humiliation... that is what Jesus endured on Friday. He was officially sentenced to death on the cross. Crucifixion was a form of death that no person wanted, and Jesus's journey to the cross was quite the opposite of His triumphal entry. Jesus suffered blood loss, shock, and broken bones all while He carried His own cross. He was paraded down the streets, yelled at, spat on, mocked, and more. Suffering and humiliation... that is what Jesus experienced, and He quietly continued His journey to His death.

The process of crucifixion was excruciatingly painful. Nails were driven in the wrists and feet causing severe pain as the weight of the body hung on them. Wounds inflicted would become inflamed. Hanging from a suspended position would cause exhaustion. The position of crucifixion made it hard for the person to breathe. Often, chest muscles became too weak to support breathing. The combination of this would ultimately lead to heart failure and death.

This is heavy! Suffering and humiliation... that is what Jesus did for you and me. We call today "Good Friday", but it seems anything but good. Friday is good because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Friday is good because of Sunday. Thankfully, there is a "rest of the story".

Take time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for you. Pray for the strength to follow Jesus's example of endurance and give thanks for forgiveness and redemption. Listen to Phil Wickham's song *Sunday is Coming*. Jesus took our place on the cross that we rightfully deserve. Jesus died for us and instead of us, so that we may experience new life.

Family discussion question: If you had been near Jesus on the cross, would you have been angry, confused, sad, or afraid? Why?

Holy Week Devotional

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Matthew 27:27-61 CSB

The Closely Guarded Tomb

62 The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come, steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take guards," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." 66 They went and secured the tomb by setting a seal on the stone and placing the guards.

What Just Happened?

by Tammy Walker

Wow! What a week to be a follower of Jesus! It started with Jesus coming into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration riding on a donkey. The people put their coats and palm leaves on the road for a donkey to walk on. Some even waved palm branches in the air. They were saying "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord".

The next day, Jesus and His disciples went to the temple to worship. They saw men there that were buying and selling animals, not worshipping God. They had turned God's house into a store! Jesus got mad and turned their tables over and told them to leave! Then He started healing people that came to Him. He made the blind see, the crippled walk and the sick well. All this made the temple leaders angry. They began to make plans to get rid of Jesus.

Tuesday, the temple leaders met with Jesus to trick Him into saying things that would break their law. Jesus carefully answered them and broke no laws. He was let go.

Wednesday, Jesus continued to teach and heal people. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, made a deal with the leaders to take them to Jesus the next night if they would pay him. The Jewish leaders decided to pay him thirty pieces of silver.

Thursday was the Passover celebration dinner. Jesus knew it would be their last Passover meal together. He told the disciples to eat bread and drink wine to remember Him. After sharing the meal, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden to pray. Jesus went off by Himself to pray that God would change the plan- but Jesus finally prayed "**not my will but Your will be done.**" In that moment Jesus chose to die for our sins so that we could become part of God's family. As they were leaving the garden, Judas came up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek. Immediately the soldiers that were with Judas arrested Jesus and took Him away. The disciples were angry, confused, and scared. The temple leaders sent Jesus to the Roman leader, Pilate, who found nothing wrong that Jesus did, so he asked the crowd of people if he should let Jesus go free. They shouted "No, kill Him"! Many of them were the same people who were shouting "Hosanna" when Jesus rode into Jerusalem just five days before.

So, Pilate agreed- and Jesus was beaten, hung on a cross and died. His body was taken down and put in a tomb (cave). The leaders wanted to make sure no one could come and steal Jesus' body to make it look like He had come back alive. That is why the leaders had a big rock rolled in front of the entrance and placed guards there. They knew Jesus had taught that he would come back alive on the third day.

How would you feel on that Saturday if you were one of Jesus' disciples? Sad? Confused? Scared?

Holy Week Devotional

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Mark 16:1–8 CSB

RESURRECTION MORNING

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise. 3 They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” 4 Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away. 5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were **alarmed**. 6 “Don’t be **alarmed**,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ” 8 They went out and ran from the tomb, because **trembling** and **astonishment overwhelmed** them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were **afraid**.

(Some of the earliest manuscripts conclude with 16:8)

Resurrection Sunday

by Terry Bostick

The confusion of Palm Sunday has been replaced with alarm, fear, astonishment, trembling, and overwhelming emotion. Jesus told them three times what would happen to Him. Maybe they could not understand His death by crucifixion because of the inhumane brutality of the process of execution or perhaps they simply could not conceive that the Messiah they had come to love and believe in would be defeated. After all, many times he had encountered religious leaders and left them looking like fools and He would move on to another area.

Three women left very early in the morning with no hope. Love and devotion overcame their confusion and grief. They wanted to honor Jesus with proper burial protocols. They wanted a way to be near him again. See Him one more time. They did not care who was watching. They had already lost Him. Lost hope.

But, on that Resurrection Sunday an empty tomb and an angelic message changed everything. Maybe still a little confused. Alarmed and afraid. Overwhelmed, that is putting it lightly. What had changed you asked. Hope. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is Risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; YOU WILL SEE HIM THERE JUST AS HE TOLD YOU.’ ” They ran. They were scared to say anything to anyone else, but now for the first time in three days, they had hope. No understanding of how. Only hope. It was enough. They would see Jesus again. When they would see Jesus again everything will have changed. Jesus has risen and with Him hope.

One day, we too will see Jesus. All of our confusion, fear, and failures will fade away and we will see Him as He is. Thank you Jesus for the promise of resurrection.