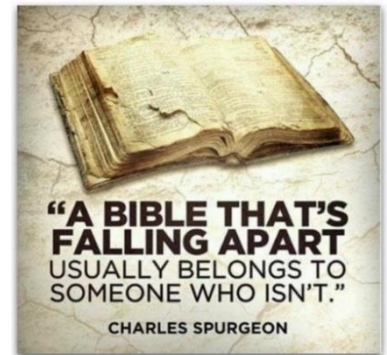




Beaches Baptist Church

Apr.8-14, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/>. If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

PASSION WEEK

Jesus' final week before his death and resurrection take up a large percentage of the four Gospel accounts. Over the next two weeks we will follow the events that led up to his death from the Friday of his 'pre-anointing' for burial by Mary at Bethany to the Sunday of his resurrection. As with all of Jesus' life, his final week was one of great significance.

Monday

FRIDAY (a week before the crucifixion)

John 12:1-8 (MSG)

¹⁻³ Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.

⁴⁻⁶ Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them.

⁷⁻⁸ Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honouring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me."

Reflect: Once again Jesus enjoyed the hospitality of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Once again Martha served while Mary is at Jesus feet (Lk.10:38-42)- this time anointing his feet with oil anticipating (without knowing it) his burial. What can we learn from Mary as we watch her love for Jesus in action?

Tuesday

SATURDAY

Exodus 20:8-10 (MSG)

⁸⁻¹¹ Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

Reflect: Of this day Max Lucado says, *“Ever feel like you’re racing down hill on a runaway bike and you don’t remember how to brake? Ever feel the wheels of your life racing faster and faster as you speed past the people you love? Could you use a reminder on how to slow it down?”*

If so, read what Jesus did during the last Sabbath of his life. Start in the Gospel of Matthew. Didn’t find anything? Try Mark. Read what Mark recorded about the way Jesus spent the Sabbath. Nothing there either? Strange. What about Luke? What does Luke say? Not a reference to the day? Not a word about it? Well try John. Surely John mentions the Sabbath. He doesn’t? No reference? Hmmmm. Looks like Jesus was quiet that day.

“Wait a minute. That’s it?” That’s it.

“You mean with one week left to live, Jesus observed the Sabbath?” As far as we can tell.

“You mean with all those apostles to train and people to teach, he took a day to rest and worship?” Apparently so.

“you’re telling me that Jesus thought worship was more important than work?” That’s exactly what I’m telling you.

For such is the purpose of the Sabbath. And such was the practice of Jesus...” (Max Lucado, *And the Angels were Silent*).

Wednesday

SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-11 (NLT)

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ²“Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

⁴This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

⁵“Tell the people of Jerusalem,

‘Look, your King is coming to you.

He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.”

⁶The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

⁸Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

¹⁰The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

¹¹And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Reflect: Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem as the long-awaited Messiah- but will he be the Messiah of their desires? And what will happen when they find he isn't? Let's guard against imposing on Jesus our agenda rather than following and trusting him.

Thursday

MONDAY

Mark 11:12-14 (MSG)

¹²⁻¹⁴ As they left Bethany the next day, he was hungry. Off in the distance he saw a fig tree in full leaf. He came up to it expecting to find something for breakfast, but found nothing but fig leaves. (It wasn't yet the season for figs.) He addressed the tree: "No one is going to eat fruit from you again—ever!" And his disciples overheard him.

Reflect: This seems a strange miracle, but its significance becomes apparent in the coming passages. The bearing of fruit was important to Jesus back then, and it is important for him today. Are you bearing fruit for Jesus?

Friday

MONDAY (probably late morning)

Mark 11:15-19 (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ They arrived at Jerusalem. Immediately on entering the Temple Jesus started throwing out everyone who had set up shop there, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of the bankers and the stalls of the pigeon merchants. He didn't let anyone even carry a basket through the Temple. And then he taught them, quoting this text:

My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations;
You've turned it into a hangout for thieves.

¹⁸ The high priests and religion scholars heard what was going on and plotted how they might get rid of him. They panicked, for the entire crowd was carried away by his teaching.

¹⁹ At evening, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

Reflect: The religious had turned religion into a business- especially making it difficult for outsiders to participate in worship. What can we learn from this about Jesus' heart towards sincere worship?

Saturday

MONDAY (late afternoon)

Mark 11:20-25 (MSG)

²⁰⁻²¹ In the morning, walking along the road, they saw the fig tree, shriveled to a dry stick. Peter, remembering what had happened the previous day, said to him, "Rabbi, look—the fig tree you cursed is shriveled up!"

²²⁻²⁵ Jesus was matter-of-fact: "Embrace this God-life. Really embrace it, and nothing will be too much for you. This mountain, for instance: Just say, 'Go jump in the lake'—no shuffling or shilly-shallying—and it's as good as done. That's why I urge you to pray for absolutely everything, ranging from small to large. Include everything as you embrace this God-life, and you'll get God's everything. And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it's not all *asking*. If you have anything against someone, *forgive*—only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins."

Sunday

TUESDAY

Matthew 21:28-32 (NLT)

²⁸ "But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. ³⁰ Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go.

³¹ “Which of the two obeyed his father?”

They replied, “The first.”

Then Jesus explained his meaning: “I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. ³²For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn’t believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

Reflect: Those who repent and change their mind about Jesus are those who please the Father.