

# EASTER

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS



BROADMOOR BAPTIST

**HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS**



**BROADMOOR BAPTIST**

## SUNDAY, APRIL 13 NO OTHER KING

Matthew 21:1-11

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem during the time of the Passover marks the beginning of Holy Week. Within this week, Jesus makes a loving and tremendous sacrifice like no other has ever made before.

The passage in Matthew 21 begins with Jesus directing his disciples to find and untie a donkey for him to ride on. He tells them in verse 5 to say to anyone who asks that, “Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.” These words were foretold by the prophet Zechariah, and with Jesus’ coming, the world was seeing fulfillment. Jesus then sat upon the donkey and rode into the city. People cheered and celebrated him and even shouted in verse 9, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” In Psalm 118:25, these words were also foretold. We often hear the word “hosanna” at this time of year and know it as a word of praise. Did you also know that in the Hebrew, its root words are “yasha” which means “save” and “anna” meaning to “beg”? People were literally begging Jesus to save them.

The religious leaders were not just angry but angry enough to plot to put an end to Jesus’ life. They saw and heard that the people didn’t just admire Jesus but that they believed that he could save them, something that the leaders knew only God could do. They didn’t choose to understand that Jesus was God and that he truly was unlike any other ruler or authority. He was the King and more than able to save.

Many seemingly learned men struggled with the truth of who Jesus was because of unbelief and the fact that Jesus never fit the mold of who they believed the Conquering King would be. He was born in a stable to humble parents, he grew up as a carpenter and ate with the town’s most despised sinners. He was homeless, traveled with a band of “unqualified” disciples and taught on love, humility and putting others before themselves. No other king had ever exemplified these qualities, but these were the qualities that showed the true heart of God.

Our world chooses kings. Not that every country has a monarchy, but we choose who we will choose to follow. Kings on thrones have some good qualities but, in the end, not one of them can be Jesus. None of them is as selfless, compassionate and powerful. No other has given his very life so that all people who would come to him would be saved from their sins and spend eternity in heaven.

Have you made Jesus your King? Is he on the throne of your heart and of your life? If not, connect with us today and we can point you to a relationship with Jesus, the only King you’ll ever need.

### PRAYER

Jesus, thank you that you came to earth to save us. Thank you that you are our King forever and always and that you reign on your throne. Lead me, Lord, and guide me each day to trust you and to know that you are more than able to care for the concerns of today. There is no other king like you - you alone deserve all my worship and praise. Amen.

## MONDAY, APRIL 14 NO OTHER AUTHORITY

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Yes, sir! Yes, ma'am! The words demonstrate love, obedience, respect, devotion and great responsibility. When used in relationship to someone in authority they become more than a colloquial phrase. The yes becomes a commitment to follow the commands and instructions of that which is in authority. Who or what holds the authority in your life? Practically, what demands your time and effort? Think about the first thing that goes on your to do list. Emotionally, what controls your devotion and feelings? This past week, what made you shout for joy? Who truly shapes your worldview and your daily activity? All authority has been given to Jesus. The only response to Jesus is, “Yes, Lord!”

“Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.” It’s appropriate because nothing else compares and given his exhaustive qualifications no one else is worthy. Jesus is in authority over us granting courage, the fuel to join his mission, the power for everyone to baptize and teach so that disciples are made to the glory of God. Let’s go! Yes, Lord! Jesus is Creator (John 1:3), Sustainer (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17), Governor (Matthew 10:9; Mark 1:27) and Savior (Mark 10:23-27). Jesus rules over history (Revelation 17:14), disease (Acts 10:38), sin (1 Corinthians 15:3) and death (1 Corinthians 15:54-58). “And therefore, when all is said and done, Jesus has absolute authority and power over the mission of the church, and it cannot fail (John Piper).”

Yes, Lord! Every one on mission. “This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). His great commandment deserves our greatest “yes!” Think about this, “the gospel came to you because it was headed to somebody else (Robby Gallaty).”

Jesus’s work on the cross makes possible the unstoppable force of Spirit-led followers to accomplish his mission. His authority grants us a fearless voice empowered by the Ultimate Authority. We can live courageously bold because the victory is already accomplished by Jesus. Be encouraged today to do everything with a kingdom mindset. Fix your eyes up, focused on Jesus Christ and sensitive to the Holy Spirit, with your knees down in a posture of spiritual dependence. There is no other authority like Jesus, therefore we must pray with conviction and live with confidence.

Jesus conquered death! Under his authority you can do greater things than even he did (John 14:12-14). When you hear his voice today, when you see a commandment in Scripture, when you’re challenged by the church to go, it is imperative to wholeheartedly respond, “Yes Lord!”

### PRAYER

I yield myself to your will and your way. Yes Lord! “Heavenly father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you. Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (John Stott).”



## TUESDAY, APRIL 15 NO OTHER TRUTH

Ephesians 1:13-14

Before you keep reading for today, press the pause button. Go back and re-read those two verses slowly to let each phrase soak in, even if for just a second, and then come back and read the rest of the devotion.

The Greek word for truth is used over 100 times in the New Testament. As you read through it, you will often see directly “God’s truth” or “the truth of Christ” or “the truth of the gospel”. For reference of the importance of that, the New Testament only says ‘salvation’ 42 times. That comparison should immediately stir your mind that God places an extremely high priority on our understanding of ‘truth’.

In the passage from Ephesians 1, the Apostle Paul answers the question of what truth is. The truth is the gospel of your salvation! When were you included in Christ? When you heard the word of truth and when you believed that word. What is the seal and guarantee of your salvation? The Holy Spirit of God. Do you know how Jesus often referred to the Holy Spirit? The Spirit of... Truth. (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13).

In those passages, Jesus says the Spirit of truth will live in us. When is the last time you thought about the truth that the very Spirit of ultimate truth lives in you?! God has given you the indwelling of His Spirit to tether you to him. Though you may falter, fail, and fall, the Holy Spirit inside you tethers you to the truth: Jesus Christ died for you. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You have been bought with a price. You are his forever.

Jesus also says the Spirit of truth testifies of himself. The Spirit testifies in you that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior, the Lord of all, and if he is Lord over all, then he is to be Lord over you today. Why? Because of the truth: Jesus Christ died for you. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You have been bought with a price. You are his forever.

In John 16, Jesus says the Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth. Here, the word gets broader. This truth is God’s way in Jesus Christ. This is the transforming power of Christ in us through the Holy Spirit in all the actions and interactions we take and have throughout our life. The Holy Spirit will guide us in the paths of God’s righteousness in his righteous truth.

Today, there will be moments where your fleshly desire seeks to carry you away through temptation into sin and death. If we are to be successful in endurance, then we need to recognize our dependence on the Spirit of truth that preaches to you all the day long: Jesus Christ died for you. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You have been bought with a price. You are his forever.

As you rejoice in those statements, remember that God has you in a Kingdom Circle of influence today because there is no other truth. Those around you may not yet be able to rejoice in the Day of the Lord. Today, you need to be Ephesians 1:13 to them. You are the vessel through which they will hear the gospel of salvation and believe. The flipside of the gospel of salvation is the promise of judgement for those who do not believe. If we truly believe that there is no other truth, then might we be broken for those around us today.

### PRAYER

Pray and give thanks as you personalize the passage from Ephesians. “And I also was included in Christ when I heard the message of truth, the gospel of my salvation. When I believed, I was marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing my inheritance until the redemption of this who is God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 NO OTHER WORTH

When I was about 9 years old, our church held an Easter pageant. This was no ordinary pageant and no detail was missed. I will never forget staring in amazement as I sat on the end of my pew and suddenly something was touching my shoulder. I looked over to see an actual donkey, IN OUR WORSHIP CENTER! I was not allowed to wear a hat in there, much less bring livestock. “That just ain’t right” I thought to myself. Even coffee was not allowed in the sanctuary. Why was a donkey allowed in this place that was so well protected? Because we were reenacting the most important story ever told. I watched as an actor was tied to a cross and raised in the air. Goose bumps covered my arms when the women discovered an empty tomb. This story was worth far more than the carpet or pews in the sanctuary. Not only did the story possess so much value, but it also gave us a worth we could not comprehend.

John chapter 20 holds what I would consider one of the most ironic verses in the whole Bible. John 20:3-4 says, “So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first.” The other disciple, being John, outran Peter. While writing the most important thing to ever be written down, John made sure we knew he was faster than Peter. Sounds like disciple rivalry to me. Anyways, a very special moment comes just a few verses later. Mary Magdalene, who was among the first who discovered the empty tomb, is standing outside the tomb in disbelief when she turns and finds the “gardener” standing behind her.

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). John 20:14-16

Mary is clearly heartbroken over what she believes has happened to the body of Jesus. But, Jesus does something that would change Mary’s life forever. He calls her by name. Why does it matter? Of course he would call her by name. Jesus and Mary were probably on a first name basis. Jesus had some things to take care of. He needed to appear to the disciples and others. He had some lessons left to teach. Yet, Jesus is standing there waiting for Mary to let her know personally that He is alive.

But now, this is what the Lord says, He who is your Creator, Jacob, And He who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! Isaiah 43:1

God is claiming his people by calling them by name. Isaiah is about to tell us that God intends to give the whole of Egypt to Cyrus of Persia to set his people free. In other words, God was willing to pay a ransom of one of the most powerful nations in the world for the little nation of Israel. He placed worth on his people far beyond what anyone could understand or grasp. In the same way, he paid the ultimate ransom for you. He has called YOU. He has claimed YOU. There is a worth that only the creator of the universe can give you. You are worth the life of his son. That is beyond comprehension. Although we are unable to understand this kind of worth, it should change the way we live. We see in Nehemiah 9 that after God’s people have been allowed to return to Israel and rebuild Jerusalem, they repent and worship. Our reaction to the worth God has given us through his son should lead us to a place of repentance and worship.

## PRAYER

God, thank you for giving the life of your son for me. I am so grateful you did not allow him to stay dead, but that death has been defeated. Thank you, Jesus, for calling me by name. There is no one else that can give me the worth you have given me. So let my life honor and serve you.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 17

### NO OTHER WAY

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

On Thursday of the Passion week Peter and John came early to Jerusalem to prepare the celebration of the Passover. At the end of this day Jesus would be arrested, his disciples scattered, and everything would seem lost and hopeless, but each event was part of the plan the Father had from eternity to redeemed sinners. The open declaration for the soon-to-happen events were “Jesus, knowing that His hour had come that He would depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” (John 13:1).

Many things transpired that evening in the upper room: Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, the disciples discussed about who was greater among them, the institution of the Lord’s Supper, the announcement of the betrayal of Jude and Peter, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the priestly prayer for his disciples, all of these in light of the imminent death at a cross for the sins of the world awaiting for him the next day.

Right after announcing the betrayal of Peter Jesus gave the promise of going to prepare a place for his followers at the house of his Father, and gave them the assurance that they, his disciples, one day will be with him. Then Thomas asked, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” And then we read: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

We live in a world where it is taught that every one’s opinion, perspectives, and worldviews are valid, and everybody should accept those “options.” It is said that we need to learn to coexist in a culture of variety, where subjectivism is the rule, even with contradictory and even illogical opinions. Sadly, this thinking has impacted the church as well. The idiom “All roads lead to Rome” seems to be the rule in religion: No matter what religion you are in, if you are sincere and faithful there, it’s enough. People had a kind of I-believe-in-God-my-way thinking that is more like a mystical and customized and individualized religion than a real belief on who Jesus really is. In a confused world we can hear the clear declaration of Jesus “I am the way.” Then Jesus reaffirmed what he meant with this declaration: “no one comes to the Father except through Me.” In other words, there is No Other Way to God but Jesus.

Jesus is the only way to the Father because no other could live the perfect life demanded by God, nor any other could receive the punishment for our sins, but only the perfect incarnated Son of God, Jesus, who received in himself what we deserve, “the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.” (1 Peter 3:18). This is why only Jesus can be the only way, and everything in his life, his death and his resurrection points to that very truth. It is not about your way or my way. There is no other way. It is not about what you feel is right, or what is more convenient for you.

As we continue meditating on the events that transpired that Holy Week, be reminded that the provision of God for the forgiveness of our sins is Jesus, his perfect and only Son, who came to this world to provide the only way that could lead us to the Father, because it is only in Jesus that our sins can be forgiven. It is not your way, or my way. There is no other way. We either take it or we leave it.

### PRAYER

“God, thank you for doing what only you can do: redeem sinners, transforming them from enemies into your children. Thank you for providing the way for us to come to you, the only way in the whole universe, and thank you for the life you give us through the life of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Amen.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 18 NO OTHER SACRIFICE

Elizabeth Elliot (Suffering Is Never for Nothing) is absolutely on target when she writes, “There will be nothing in that cup of salvation except what is necessary.” To wrap the human understanding around human need is never complete. However, knowing the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins is absolutely essential and there is NO OTHER SACRIFICE.

I have always marveled at the gospel writers and how they identify Jesus as the Messiah to Israel and the Savior to the Gentiles. Matthew begins with Abraham and his lineage. Mark begins with the prophets. Luke begins with Adam. John begins with the Word at the beginning with God. They cover the birth of Jesus from A to Z.

John begins with the beginning. He knows full well that salvation is not an afterthought but an eternal thought. It is once for all to be completed with the death of Jesus. He will be God’s sacrifice for the sins of the world. “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.” There are no more son(s) to give. This is it!

Jesus must fit the qualification for the sacrifice. One of my richest Bible studies is at this place. Does Jesus qualify as God’s only sacrifice for man’s redemption?

It is impossible to give all the requirements to the sacrifice of the Messiah/Savior, but here are a few listed below:

### Genesis 22

God provided the lamb—remember the thicket? As Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the Lord stopped him, and he saw a ram caught in the thicket (Genesis 22:13). God provided a substitute, foreshadowing Jesus, the ultimate Lamb (Genesis 22:14).

### Exodus 12

The slaying of the lamb—remember the doorpost and deliverance? The Israelites applied the blood of a spotless lamb to their doorposts, and the Lord passed over them, sparing their firstborn (Exodus 12:13). This points to Christ, our Passover Lamb, who delivers us from sin and death (1 Corinthians 5:7).

### Leviticus 23

Without spot or blemish—remember only the best was offered? Sacrificial lambs had to be perfect (Leviticus 23:12), symbolizing Christ, the sinless Lamb of God, whose once-for-all sacrifice replaced the repeated offerings of the old covenant (1 Peter 1:19).

### Isaiah 53

The symbol becomes a person—“a man of sorrows.” Isaiah foretold Jesus’ suffering: beaten, pierced, and crushed for our sins (Isaiah 53:3-5). Like a lamb led to slaughter, He did not open His mouth (Isaiah 53:7), taking our punishment so we might have peace.

Now we know it is a man, but we have to wait for 400+ years to know his name. John the Baptist identifies Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29) God provided, the Lamb is crucified, he is without spot or blemish, and in Revelation 22, He is on the throne.

## PRAYER

Lord, thank you that the sacrifice is complete. There is no Plan B. The once-for-all perfect Lamb (Jesus) died for our sins. He fits every qualification! Amen!



## SATURDAY, APRIL 19 NO OTHER SILENCE

Silence is golden, right? To the parent of very active and loud children, to the worker in a noisy environment, to the person living in a metropolitan area, to the one who is addicted to technology and social media, to the struggler whose inner dialogue can be negative and relentless, the answer is yes. The idiom “silence is golden” refers to not only speaking less, but also lowering sensory input, which turns out to be a very healthy practice. So, silence is golden, right?

The day between Jesus’s death and resurrection has been dubbed “Holy Saturday.” The Gospels are remarkably quiet and do not give us much information, thus a day of silence. Can you imagine being a disciple, family member, or friend reflecting on the heaviness of all that had just happened and wondering what’s next? Feelings of uncertainty, guilt, loss of hope, grief, personal safety--that day must have been so hard, full of emotions. Not a golden silence, but a deafening one.

It is easy for us, as Monday morning armchair quarterbacks, to ignore Jesus’ followers’ experience and dismiss this day as we rush to Resurrection Sunday. The uniqueness of this day is significant. There had never been a Saturday like this one, and there will never be another Saturday like it. After three and a half years of living and doing ministry with Jesus, the disciples were without him, and the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. We can only imagine what the disciples were going through.

The gospels tell us that after Jesus dies on the cross, Joseph and Nicodemus take his body and place it in a tomb, one that has never been used. Almost immediately, the writers move to Sunday when the women go to the tomb and find Jesus has risen. We just do not read much between the crucifixion and the resurrection. After all, it was the day of rest, and Jesus’ followers would observe the Sabbath.

Really, the only mention of that day in the Gospels is when Matthew writes about the exchange between the chief priests and the Pharisees going to Pilate with their concerns that Jesus’ body would be stolen, and, in their words, “the last deception will be worse than the first.” That’s it.

So, what is our response to this silent Saturday of Holy Week? Reflection. To seek quiet in a noisy world. Not just another weekend day full of activities but quieting the soul and leaning into the presence of God. Not isolation, but solitude because there is a difference. Both involve silence, but isolation is just being alone, in contrast to solitude which involves reflection.

Silence and solitude are spiritual disciplines. They are not an end in themselves, but a means for the Holy Spirit to guide us in hearing God’s voice over all the invading voices. The combination of silence with solitude carries us into the presence of God, so we can know his heart.

Psalm 46:10 is probably coming to your mind and heart now and rightly so. Some translations state, “Be still and know that I am God.” The NASB version states, “Cease striving and know that I am God.” We are to surrender, let go, and experience God’s presence. To know all that God desires for us in this noisy, constantly pulling and tugging, demanding-our-attention world.

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 19** **NO OTHER SILENCE**

So, what do we do? Intentionally take respites. Structure daily respites, as well as longer ones periodically. Find time to be in silence and solitude away from all that clamors for your attention and sit with God. The best question ever asked is, “God, what do I need to hear from you today?” Give God time and opportunity to speak.

Unlike the disciples, we have the benefit of knowing the full story of Jesus’s death, burial, and resurrection. We know Easter is coming! Preparing our hearts on Holy Saturday is important and necessary. It’s not merely a day between Good Friday and Easter. Sometimes it takes a silent Saturday to appreciate the significance of Sunday.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for conquering death. Thank you for affording me a relationship with you through the death, burial, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus. Help me to desire you above all else. Help me to find your presence and strength as I am silent before you. God, what do I need to hear from you today? (Now, wait in silence.)

## SUNDAY, APRIL 20 NO OTHER NAME

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

We all remember how Peter responded to pressure the night before Jesus was crucified. When he was challenged, he denied even knowing Jesus. Well, just a few weeks later, he proudly proclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, and it caused problems for the Jewish authorities, the same Jewish authorities who orchestrated the death of Jesus. He and John are dragged before the Sanhedrin and commanded to stop proclaiming the gospel. How did Peter respond? He responded by refusing the order and then by preaching to them gospel they forbade. And he ended his response with the statement above from Acts 4:12 that there is no other name.

Think about it! Just weeks before, Peter had quailed in the presence of a servant girl who identified him as a follower of Christ. Just weeks before, he called down curses in his denying even knowing the one on trial for his life. Just weeks before, he wept bitterly at the realization of his abject failure. Just weeks before!

What changed? Two things. First, he encountered the risen Lord. As he stumbled onto the shore of the Sea of Galilee after a fruitless night of fishing, he encountered the risen Lord. All his arrogance and bravado had been squeezed from his being by his utter failure. He was silent, not begging for forgiveness or proclaiming future faithfulness. His shame didn't permit that. But the Lord was not silent toward him. He simply asked him a question to which he already knew the answer. “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” Peter wasn't going to make any claims about loving him more than anybody. He simply responded, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” In the following exchange, Jesus made it clear that he too loved Peter and that he was restoring Peter to serving him in the family of God. Imagine how that was for Peter!

Second, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Therefore, the Lord was ever with him, giving him wisdom and empowering him for whatever lay before him. So, as he stood before the Sanhedrin, the very men whose scheming brought about the death of his Savior, he stood his ground and preached the truth. What a difference there is in one's life when he encounters the risen Lord and is filled with his Spirit.

Today is the day we celebrate our Risen LORD! Yes, we are made different, we are made wise, we are made spiritually powerful through our relationship with our Risen LORD! Praise him for that realization. But I want you to remember something else very important, something that was stressed by Peter to the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:12. What is that? In short, there is no other name. There is no one who does not need Jesus to rescue them from sin and the judgment of God.

It didn't matter how religious the members of the Sanhedrin were. They needed Jesus. And only in Jesus was there the hope of salvation. The people you know all have one thing in common. They need Jesus. If they are already in a relationship with him, praise the Lord. If not, ask God to grant you the boldness of Peter so that you will be sure they know there is hope in NO OTHER NAME!

## PRAYER

Father, grant us the boldness to deny fear and speak proudly the gospel of our Lord Christ.



# good friday

FRIDAY, APRIL 18  
5:00 PM WCN & WCS

# easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 20  
8:30 AM TRADITIONAL  
9:45 AM TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY  
11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY & HISPANIC  
NO B GROUPS

BROADMOOR BAPTIST  
4110 YOUREE DRIVE  
SHREVEPORT, LA  
MOOR.CHURCH