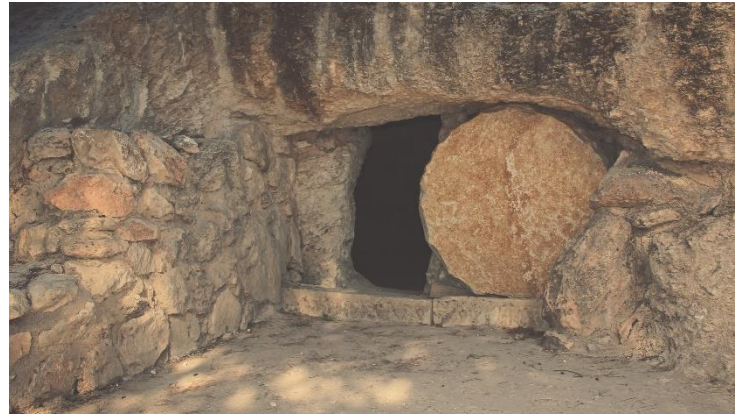


Easter Bible Study 2023



3 studies

Study 1 – Palm Sunday - Hosanna to the Son of David – Psalm 118 and Matthew 21:1-11
[See also: Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38 and John 12:12-15] (Sermon on 02-April-23)

Before we begin: Psalms 113-118 are “Hallel” (Hebrew for praise) psalms

Look up Matthew 26:26-30 and note verse 30.

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you; I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The hymn that they sang after supper was probably Psalm 118, because that is the traditional Psalm sung at the conclusion of the Passover Feast.

This Psalm is a prophetic psalm about Jesus, which found its fulfillment in the week beginning on Palm Sunday leading up to Good Friday.

Read Psalm 118:1-7

1. What repeating refrain is there in verses 1 to 4? What comfort can we draw from this?

His love endures forever.

Particularly as we’ve been through bush fires, floods, droughts, storms, and now covid-19, isn’t it a great comfort, that God loves us with an everlasting love.

2. What comfort does the writer have in verses 5 to 7? (cf. Romans 8:31, 33-34)

V5- He cried to the Lord – and God brought him to a spacious place.

V6 – Because the Lord is with him, he will not be afraid.

V7 – The Lord is his helper

Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:33-34 - 33Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Could also throw in Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Read Psalm 118:8-14

3. List the golden truths, the writer expresses in verses 8 to 14.

V8, 9 – better to take refuge in God than trust in men, than trust in princes.

V10-12 – Because he belongs to God’s people – nations might surround him, but God gives His people protection

V13 – Even when he felt pushed back – God helped him; He was his strength and defense and SALVATION

Read Psalm 118:15-21

4. What has the Lord done in verses 15 to 21?

He has given victory – there is resounding joy in the tents

He’s given life – where it seemed like the writer faced death

He now feels righteous and can enter the gate of the Lord

This is a picture of SALVATION

Read Psalm 118:22-29

5. How does this Psalm relate to Jesus?

a. V22 (cf. Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Pe 2:7)

Jesus is this cornerstone that the builders have rejected

Jesus is our foundation – that we build upon

When the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus – they thought they were rejecting some ordinary “stone” but they were rejecting the chief or head or cornerstone – from which everything else is built on.

b. V23 (Mark 12:11)

In Mark 12 – Jesus tells the parable of the tenants of a vineyard – who killed the servants (prophets) the owner (God the Father) sent to check on the vineyard; and then they killed the son (Jesus) of the owner, when he was sent. Then Jesus quotes from Psalm 118 – in verse 10 and 11 – basically prophesying that He will be rejected by the Jewish leaders and people, just as the Psalm says.

c. V24

Pointing to the day (first Palm Sunday) – the day Jesus came into Jerusalem declaring He is the Messiah and Saviour.

And in turn, pointing to the fact that on the day of His death – He purchased salvation for us – so although the day of His death was a dreadful day for Him – it is GOOD Friday for us

So, we can rejoice and be glad of that day

d. V25 (Matt 21:9)

As Jesus rode into town on that first Palm Sunday. The people sang “Hosanna” which can mean “grant us success” or “save us” They thought Jesus was coming in a military sense. But his salvation was not physical one but a spiritual one.

e. V26 (Matt 21:9; John 12:13)

Again, what the people chanted on that Palm Sunday as Jesus rode into town, was a direct quote from Psalm 118:26 – Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

f. V27 (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8; Col 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9)

The Lord has made his light shine upon us. This finds its fulfilment in:

Acts 26:18 – Jesus turns people from darkness into His glorious light

Eph 5:8 – People were once in the darkness of their sin – but with Jesus we are now in the light

Col 1:13 – Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into His kingdom

1 Peter 2:9 – Because of Jesus we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, so that we can declare His praises for calling us out of the darkness of our sin and into His wonderful light

g. V28

What we have to realize is the deity of Jesus. He is part of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As Phil 2:9 says: Therefore, God exalted Him (Jesus) to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names.

h. V29

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.

What we need to realize is that Jesus was there at creation, then He became flesh and lived a perfect life of obedience on Earth; and then He loved us so much, He laid down His life for us. And now He sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, and intercedes. Jesus’ love is eternal. He is the Alpha and Omega, who is, who was and who is to come.

Read Matthew 21:1-11

6. Why has Jesus come to Jerusalem? (cf. Luke 9:51)

Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem.

He came to Jerusalem to die. Not to be welcomed as King.

7. What do we learn about Jesus from verses 2-3?

He knows there will be a particular donkey with a colt. And he knows if anyone asks why they’re taking it – they just have to mention the Lord’s name.

What we learn is that Jesus is omniscient. We know He has every detail and contingency covered. So, even though He is the God of Heaven and Earth – He can handle the details too.

8. What prophecy is fulfilled in verses 4-5?

The prophecy from Zech 9:9 – that a King will ride into town on a donkey – a colt

Normally a king would ride into town on a stallion or in a chariot, like the Roman leaders did.

9. What is the significance of a colt in verses 5 and 7?

A colt is a male (uncastrated) foal. Usually under 4 years of age.

Riding on donkey is a picture of humility

It means the rider has come not on military terms but on peaceful terms

Luke's Gospel says no one had ridden the colt – so the colt would be very frisky – and would normally be upset by big crowds and noise. But this is no problem for the King of Kings

10. Why would there be a large crowd in Jerusalem at this time?

It is the annual festival of Passover, and Jews came from everywhere to celebrate this festival

11. What is the significance of the people laying down cloaks and branches on the ground? (cf. 2 Kings 9:13)

2 Kings 9:13 says - They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

The significance of people laying down cloaks and branches is to welcome a king. The people saw Jesus as their King. This is difficult because remember Israel was occupied by the Romans. Israel had puppet kings installed by the Romans and the Emperor Caesar was their king. This could incite a rebellion. One of the things Jesus was later accused of.

See also Revelation 7:9 - After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

12. What does "hosanna" mean in verse 9?

Hosanna literally means "O save us" but it became to be used also as an exclamation of praise

13. **Ponder:** Why the difference between Matthew 21:9 and Mark 15:13?

Most likely it's not the same people crying "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Crucify Him". Also, they misunderstood what sort of King Jesus is.

In the space of a week, the Jewish leaders had made up their mind, that to allow Jesus to continue, gaining the praise of the people, would put their status and power into question. Jesus was becoming too popular. The Romans allowed the Jewish religion (Judaism) great freedom and privilege – but if Jesus became so popular, either that freedom would be cut or the Romans would accuse the Jews of a rebellion. So, in the eyes of the Jewish leaders, Jesus had to go. What they didn't realize was – this was all part of God's Sovereign Plan.

14. What do you think the people are looking to be saved from?

They were looking to be saved from Roman oppression and return to the glorious heady days of having a King, like King David.

15. What vital question do the people ask in verse 10? How would you answer that question?

The vital question the people ask in v10 is "Who is this?"

16. What is revealed by the people's answer in verse 11 to the question asked in verse 10?

Could this be the problem today?

There answer in v11 was that Jesus was the prophet from Nazareth.

Many people today see Jesus as a great man, a great teacher, even a prophet.

But they don't necessarily see Him as – God – or as the Lord of their lives – or as their Saviour.

He's much more than a prophet.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Matthew 21:1-11**?

Blessed is He (King Jesus) who comes in the name of the Lord

OR

King Jesus deserves our thanks and praise



Give a **light globe** moment you experienced in this passage?



How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. *We should be praising and thanking God – we have some many things to be grateful for*
- b. *God's love endures FOREVER – unlike human love which sometimes/often fails*
- c. *God is more trustworthy than any human no matter how well-intentioned they are.*
- d. *The Lord is our only means of salvation for Heaven, which is why Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday*
- e. *Have we told others what the Lord has done for us, why not? Easter is a great time – as people question what Easter is all about?*
- f. *The Lord is the cornerstone that we can build our lives on!*
- g. *How do we answer the question "Who is Jesus?"*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V9 - *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

Finish in prayer: Praising God for His Son, Jesus, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2)

Study 2 – Good Friday – The Suffering and Glory of the Servant – Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and John 18:1-19:42
(Sermon on 07-April-23)

Before we begin: What is a servant?

Dictionary definition: a person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house on domestic duties or as a personal attendant.

A servant in Bible times was one who voluntarily chose to serve another.

Read Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12

1. As you read these verses; how does each verse relate to Jesus and His ministry?

52:13 – See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Jesus is the Servant King. He always acted wisely.

He was lifted up on the cross; He was raised from the dead; He was exalted to the highest place and given the name above all names (Philippians 2:9).

52:14 – Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—

The sight of Jesus on the cross would have appalled people watching on.

The roman torture of scourging and the beatings He suffered (Luke 22:63-64) would have disfigured Jesus' appearance and made him virtually unrecognizable.

52:15 – so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Jesus' blood (just like the sacrifices in Leviticus) was sprinkled to cleanse all people from all nations from their sins, if they care to believe in Him.

Ironically, the one who will suffer so badly and people will be appalled at, will be the one who can cleanse people from their sins and be exalted to the Highest Heavens!

The blessed results of cleansing and atonement that follow such tortured suffering is what makes kings shut their mouths; they are dumbfounded; gob-smacked. New truth has come to them, formerly untold, unheard before, but now seen and understood.

53:1 - Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isaiah anticipates the message of a suffering servant Messiah, cleansing people, may seem strange and contradictory (paradox) and difficult for people to accept and so the Messiah is rejected.

The arm of the Lord is a picture of the power, strength and might of God who will be in the midst of the Messiah's suffering.

53:2 - He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance[©] that we should desire him. –

Jesus did **grow up**, as He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52). But all the while, He was as **a tender plant** — of seeming weakness and insignificance, not like a mighty tree.

A **tender plant** is weak and vulnerable — unless it is before Him, that is, before the LORD God. In God's presence, that which seems to be weak is strong. If the plant is before Him, it doesn't even matter that the ground is dry. God will sustain it with His presence.

As **a root out of dry ground**: Jesus grew up in the Galilee region of Roman occupied Palestine. In respect to spiritual, political, and standard of living matters, it was indeed dry ground. God can bring the most wonderful things out of dry ground.

"Do not say, 'It is useless to preach down there, or to send missionaries to that uncivilized country.' How do you know? Is it very dry ground? Ah, well, that is hopeful soil; Christ is a 'root out of a dry ground,' and the more there is to discourage the more you should be encouraged. Read it the other way. Is it dark? Then all is fair for a grand show of light; the light will never seem so bright as when the night is very very dark." (Spurgeon)

Prophetically, Isaiah gives a more compelling description of Jesus than we find anywhere in the gospel accounts. Jesus was not a man of remarkable beauty or physical attractiveness. This doesn't mean that Jesus was ugly, but it does mean that He did not have the "advantage" of good looks. Jesus used His Word and His incredible teaching to capture people's hearts.

53:3 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. — *Jesus was despised and rejected by many of His own people.*

He is rejected by many today too.

He suffered greatly; Misunderstood; misrepresented; mistreated; betrayed even by one His friends; falsely accused by the religious leaders; tortured and beaten by the Romans and crucified. He was familiar with both emotional and physical pain.

As John 1:10-11 says: He was in the world and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.

He was the King of Heaven and Earth but treated as someone of low esteem!

53:4 – Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

Here we see why Jesus suffered; it's because he took our punishment and our suffering for our sins; He took our place! He died instead of us. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grieve to bear".

People rightly saw that He was punished, stricken and afflicted by God – but they didn't understand the reasons WHY?

53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed –

His hands and feet were pierced with nails – for our sins and transgression – not His own. His punishment brought peace; as Romans 5:1 says: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Ironically by His wounds (flogged/scourged – Matthew 27:26 and John 19:1) we have been healed of our sins.

53:6 – We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Here, Isaiah says we are all like lost sheep, lost from God; and we have gone our own way not God's way; and have wandered off. But God put all our sins (iniquities) on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Jesus is a different kind of shepherd – He not only looks for His lost sheep, He saves them by laying down His life for them.

53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. –

Despite the pain and the suffering of the Messiah, He never opened...His mouth to defend Himself. He was silent before His accusers (Mark 15:2-5), never speaking to defend Himself, only to glorify God.

The prophet repeats His previous point, that the Messiah will suffer without speaking to defend Himself. When Isaiah uses the phrase, He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, we should not take this as indicating that Jesus was a helpless victim of circumstances and was helpless as a lamb. Quite the contrary; even in His suffering and death, Jesus was in control (John 10:18, 19:11 and 19:30). Isaiah's point is that Jesus was silent, not helpless.

At any point, Jesus, could have stopped the crucifixion but He did the Father's will!

53:8 – By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people, he was punished *This verse describes how Jesus was unfairly arrested and imprisoned before the crucifixion. "Yet who of His generation protested?" can mean either a) He was cut off in His prime and left no children; or b) no one in His day really considered what was happening and there was little sympathy or defence for Him.*

"Cut off from the land of the living" is a clear statement that the suffering Messiah must DIE! The word used for "cut-off" means a violent, premature death and also judgment from God, not just human-kind.

An important point: This, among many aspects of this prophecy, demonstrates again that Isaiah cannot be speaking of Israel as the suffering Servant. As badly as Israel has suffered through the centuries, she has never been cut off from the land of the living. She has always endured, even as God promised Abraham.

All this suffering was for transgression of the people – NOT for Himself.

53:9 – He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Jesus was crucified with two other men who were criminals (Luke 23:32-33), the implication being that Jesus would be executed and placed in a common grave with the wicked.

Despite the intention to bury Jesus with the wicked; Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man, allowed Jesus' body to be placed in a tomb, he owned (Luke 23:50-56 and Matthew 27:57-60).

Isaiah reiterates that Jesus was perfect and sinless, when he says "He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth" (see 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5 and Revelation 14:5)

53:10 – Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

It was God's will and plan that Jesus would die for the sin of the world. God's word always achieves its purposes.

God sent Jesus into the world to save the world (John 3:16-17).

The death, the burial, the offering of the Messiah does not end the story. He lives on! He lives to see His offspring, His spiritual descendants. He shall prolong His days, and not be under the curse of death. And the life He lives after His death and burial is glorious; His life shall be lived prospering in the pleasure of the LORD.

53:11 – After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities

After Jesus suffered, He will see what has been achieved, Jesus the light of the world will bring light to all who follow Him. Jesus will be satisfied with what His suffering has achieved. It will mean many people are justified (just as if they never sinned) and made righteous (right with God) because of their faith in Him; because He has borne their sin!

53:12 – Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Jesus is given a portion among the great – He is exalted to the highest place (Phil 2:9-11) Isaiah gives a picture of a victory – where the victor divides the spoils.

Why does Jesus get the reward? Because His blood was poured out for us (Matthew 26:28, 38, 39, 42) and because He was numbered with the transgressors (crucified with two criminals – Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 22:37; 23:32)

And He bore the sin of many (Hebrews 9:28)

And He intercedes for the transgressors – see Romans 8:34 - Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Read John 18

1. How is Jesus betrayed in verses 1-3?

Judas told the chief priests and Pharisees where Jesus was and led them to Him. Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver (Mark 14:10-11; Matt 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6)

2. How does Jesus handle himself when confronted by the arresting party in verses 4-9?

He faces His enemies. He takes full responsibility and protects His disciples, placing no blame on them. In doing so, he fulfils His promise from John 6:39 – that He will lose any the Father gave Him.

3. How does Peter handle the arrest in verses 10-12?

Typical Peter is reactive and headstrong. Peter cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant (Malchus). Jesus commands Peter to put away His sword – Jesus must drink the cup (of wrath) that the Father will pour out on Him for the sins of the world. Jesus goes peacefully with the arresting officials.

4. Where is Jesus taken in verses 13-14? Why?

He goes to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas the High Priest, for interrogation

5. Who followed Jesus, and what did Peter do that was so wrong, in verses 15-18?

Peter and the other disciple (presumably, John). He denied knowing Jesus to a servant girl. Because he was afraid.

6. What key word is at stake in the questioning of Jesus by the High Priest in verses 19 to 23? (Hint: v23)

The key thing is whether Jesus was speaking the truth or not. And of course, He was.

7. What does Peter do wrong in verses 25-27? Is this surprising? (cf. John 13:38)

Peter denies knowing Jesus a further two times. Not surprising as Jesus had told Peter that he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed.

8. What does the conversation between Pilate and Jesus reveal about the identity and integrity of Jesus, in verses 28-38?

That Jesus is a King. And that His Kingdom is not a physical kingdom as such but a Spiritual Kingdom and the Kingdom of Heaven

In v37, Jesus reveals He was born to be King and His reason for coming into the world was to testify the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Jesus

Cynically Pilate asks "What is truth" – something often questioned in the world of "fake news" and "alternative truth"

9. What do we find out about the "mind" of the people in verses 39-40?

The mind of the people is turned against Jesus. They don't want Jesus released but a fellow name Barabbas. A far cry, from Palm Sunday and Hosanna to the Son of David

Read John 19

10. What does Pilate hope to achieve in verses 1-4?

*Pilate had Jesus flogged and they put a crown of thorns on Him and mocked His kingship
Pilate hoped that by telling the people he could find no basis to charge him – that the people might want Jesus released*

11. How is the presentation of Jesus received by the crowd in verses 5-6?

They reject Jesus as their King; and they shout for Jesus to be crucified!

12. What is the charge against Jesus in verses 7-9?

V7 – The charge is that Jesus claims to be the Son of God; which in their eyes amounted to blasphemy.

V8 – Pilate was afraid by this claim; what if it's truth, he probably thought?

V9 – So Pilate asks Jesus where He came from – but Jesus won't answer

13. What does Jesus reveal to Pilate about the subject of power in verses 10-11?

V9 – Pilate reminds Jesus, that Pilate himself has the power to crucify Him

V10. Jesus reminds Pilate – that Pilate only has power because God, the Father, allows him to have power.

14. How is the second presentation of Jesus received by the crowd in verses 12-16

Pilate attempts to release Jesus

But the Jewish leaders remind Pilate – that if Jesus (claiming to be a King) is released then this opposes the ruling king, Caesar himself.

So, Pilate can't have the accusation that he opposed Caesar thrown at him, so he presents to them their King – only to be told by the crowd, to crucify Jesus.

So, Pilate relented and sent Jesus to be crucified.

15. What's so wrong with the crowd's comment (v15) that they have no king but Caesar?

They DO have a king other than Jesus; that is God (and Jesus)

16. What is Pilate's public inscription of Jesus on the cross and His supposed crime (see verses 19-22)?

Inscription was: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" written in 3 languages: Latin, Greek and Aramaic. Presumably as a deterrent for people not to commit the same offence? The crime was saying He was/is a King.

17. What prophecy is fulfilled in verses 23-24?

Psalm 22:18

18. What does Jesus' words in verses 25-27 show?

Even at the moment of His death – his concern is still for others. He tells Mary, his mother, to be mother to the disciple, John – and tells John to be son, to his mother. We can assume that this provision means that Joseph is no longer alive?

19. What scripture is fulfilled in verse 28 and 29?

Psalm 22

Psalm 69:21

20. What does Jesus' proclamation in v30 reveal?

Jesus declared His Father's Work finished (see Luke 12:50; John 4:34; John 17:4)

21. What happens immediately after Jesus' death in verses 31 to 37? Why?

The Jewish leaders did not want bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, so they asked the legs of the bodies to be broken to speed up death (with legs broken, the victim can't lift themselves up to breath). When they came to break Jesus' legs, he was already dead. Fulfills scripture that none of his bones will be broken (Ex 12:46; Num 9:12; Ps 34:20)

22. Two men are involved in Jesus' burial? Why are these two men important? What scripture is fulfilled?

Two men are Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Both of them were followers of Jesus, albeit secretly. These men are important, because they are eye-witnesses to what happened to Jesus' body, so that any made up stories like "Jesus was in a coma and hadn't really died" or "that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body" (Matt 28:11-15). See Isaiah 53:9 - He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Finish in prayer: Thanking Jesus that He came down from Heaven, not to do His own will but the will of the Father who sent Him (John 6:38)

Study 3 – Easter Sunday – Who is this Man? Luke 24:1-35

(Sermon on 09-April-23)

Before you begin

Ponder: How would the disciples and the women who had followed and been with Jesus for 3 years, have been feeling after the events of that first Good Friday?

They have spent 3 years with the greatest and most remarkable man to ever live on this Earth. He did and said things only God could do; He performed miracles; He even raised someone from the dead; and He taught things about God and with the authority of God; He claimed to be the Son of God and to be a King. Even though He said He would have to die and be raised to life; no one had really taken that in. Now He was dead; they would be all devastated. They had hoped He would redeem the people of Israel.

Read Luke 24:1-12

1. What day of the week is it? Does this explain why we worship on Sunday? Yes/No/Maybe?

The first day of the week; Sunday.

When the early Christians met in the home churches, they met on the first day of the week because a) that was the day of the week that Jesus was raised; and b) it was better to meet on a different day than on the Jewish Sabbath, to show they were a distinct group of followers and not a sub-branch of Jews.

Most Christian denominations worship on Sunday (first day of the week) except the Seventh Day Adventists who celebrate the Jewish Sabbath – which starts at sunset on Friday until Saturday sunset.

2. Why had the women come to the tomb?

The women came to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body in the tomb.

It seems Jesus' body had not be properly prepared for burial as he was taken down from the cross quickly before Sabbath began at sunset on Friday.

3. What did they find at the tomb in verses 2 and 3?

The found the stone rolled away and Jesus' body was not in the tomb.

4. Who appeared to them and what did they ask the women in verse 4 & 5?

Two men (angels) in clothes that gleamed like lightning who stood beside the women.

They asked the women "why do you look for the living among the dead?"

5. Should they be surprised that Jesus is risen (v6)? (cf. Matt 16:21; 17:22-23; Luke 9:22)

Jesus told them in:

Matthew 16:21 – From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matthew 17:22-23 – ²² When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. ²³ They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.

Luke 9:22 - And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

They should not be surprised; Jesus told them three times that He would be killed and be raised to life!

6. How did the women react? What did the women do once they heard Jesus was risen?

When the angels reminded them, the women recalled what Jesus had said.

The women told the 11 disciples (Judas has betrayed Jesus) what had happened at the tomb.

7. What’s the problem with female witnesses in the Jewish culture of the day?

Female witness had no credibility in Jewish culture. It was a man’s world and women were virtually invisible and would not be listened to as witnesses.

8. Why didn’t the apostles believe the women?

Because the women’s words seemed like nonsense. How can someone rise from the dead? Even though they’d witnessed Lazarus being raised after 4 days in the grave.

9. What did Peter do with the news? Did he believe?

Peter ran to the tomb; found the strips of linen in the empty tomb. We are not told if he believed; but he wondered to himself what had happened.

10. **Read John 20:1-10.** How did the ‘other’ disciple react to the empty tomb?

The ‘other disciple’ we assume was John and that John humbly does not give his name in his Gospel. We he saw the empty tomb; he believed.

11. How do the reactions of the women, Peter and the ‘other’ disciple (John) epitomize how people react to Jesus’ resurrection today?

The women share the Good News but are not believed – that happens when Christian share their faith sometimes

Peter wasn’t sure; he wondered what had happened.

John believed.

People’s response today is varied/mixed.

Read Luke 24:13-35

12. Why do you think the two disciples walking to Emmaus didn’t recognize the resurrected Jesus? (cf. verse 16; John 20:14; 21:4)

V16 – they were kept from recognizing Jesus

John 20:14 – Mary Magdalene didn't realize it was Jesus – she thought he was the gardener?

John 21:4 – When Jesus was on the shoreline of the lake, the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus.

13. How do the two disciples describe Jesus in verse 19? What does that suggest?

They describe Jesus as a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

This suggests they only have a partial understanding on Jesus' identity.

14. What had the disciples hoped Jesus would do, in verse 21?

They had hoped He was going to redeem Jesus!

15. What evidence does the Bible give for Jesus' resurrection? (Acts 1:1-8; 1 Cor 15)

Jesus gave many proofs that He was alive.

He appeared to His disciples over a period of 40 days.

1 Cor 15 – Jesus appeared to Peter, then the 12 disciples; then more than 500 people, most of whom were alive at the time Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians; then He appeared to James, then to other apostles – and lastly to Paul.

16. Is that enough evidence? (cf. John 20:24-29 – especially verse 29)

He especially appeared to Thomas who had said he wouldn't believe unless he saw Jesus and felt His wounds.

Jesus said we are blessed if we haven't seen Him and yet we believe.

We don't need evidence – faith in God's Word and in His Son is enough!

17. Back to Luke 24; how does Jesus react to the disciples' story of the empty tomb, in verses 25 & 26?

He says they are foolish and slow to believe.

18. What does Jesus explain about Himself in verses 26 & 27?

The prophets had spoken all about this in God's Word. How the Messiah would have to suffer (see Isaiah 52:13-53:12).

And beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

19. **Read Genesis 3:15, Numbers 21:9; Deuteronomy 18:15.** Who are these Old Testament scriptures pointing to?

Genesis 3:15 – And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

*The women’s offspring is Jesus; the snake is the devil and His offspring are Satan’s demons.
Jesus will crush Satan’s head and Satan will strike Jesus heel.*

Numbers 21:9 – So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

In the same way that people looked at the bronze snake on Moses’ pole and lived – anyone who looks up to Jesus on the cross and believes, will also live – and is saved for Heaven

Deuteronomy 18:15 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

The prophet that God will raise up, is Jesus Himself.

20. What did Jesus do that “opened” their eyes (verse 30-31)

He broke bread like He did at the Last Supper

21. How did the two men respond to the truth of Jesus’ resurrection in verses 32 to 35?

They said how their hearts burned within them as Jesus talked to them and opened up Scripture to them.

They told the 11 disciples “It is true! The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon Peter. And they explained how they came to recognize Jesus!

22. **Optional Challenge:** Given the statement Luke 24:27 that scripture is all about Jesus; you have plenty of time on your hands – during the school holidays. Find a reference to Jesus in **every** Old Testament Book. I’d love to hear what you find – email me at paulotoukley@pc@gmail.com

A couple of answers at the following links – but these are far from the only answers. Jesus is everywhere in Scripture if we pray and meditate and think about how the passage relates to Jesus. In any given book in the Bible; there will be many references to Jesus and “types” of Jesus [e.g., Joseph in Genesis; Moses; Joshua; Gideon; David etc.]

Link: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/in-every-book-of-the-bible.html>

Link: <https://www.merryministries.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/20150506-Handout.pdf>

Link: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-in-every-book-of-the-Bible.html>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGUqvu2nOxc>

Finish in prayer: Thanking Jesus that He has conquered the punishment of sin, which is death, through His resurrection (cf. 1 Cor 15:54-57).