Part 26/33 – **Holy Week** – *03/06/16*

Key thought: Jesus inaugurates His Kingdom not with a show of power, not with sword wielding armies, but with His own humble suffering. During Holy Week we prepare to see the wonderful mystery of Christ’s death revealed as the coronation of the king.

*God’s master plan was now reaching its climax as Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as the Messiah, the son of David. However, Jesus came to inaugurate God’s Kingdom, not with a show power or sword wielding armies, but with his own humble suffering. The prophecies concerning the servant of God who would bring salvation by being despised and rejected were about to be fulfilled.*

*During the days after Palm Sunday, the hostility of Jesus’ enemies became more and more evident as they confronted Him in the temple. They are now plan to kill Jesus; with the help of one of His disciples who betrayed him, they plotted His death.*

*As the prophet sent by God, Jesus taught His disciples concerning the times to come, telling them of great troubles which would come on the earth until, finally, God’s Eternal Kingdom would be ushered in with the return of Christ and the end of the world.*

*Before He went to His death, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. During the meal, He gave the Lord’s Supper as the Sacrament of His body and blood which He was now about to offer as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. The time is now at hand for God to reveal the mystery of His plan; His Son would be crowned King by dying on the cross.*

1. What is the underlying unity of Holy Week?

2. What is the first thing Jesus does after He enters the city of Jerusalem? Why?

3. What do the final prophecies of Jesus stress?

4. What did Passover celebrate?

5. What does the Lord’s Supper celebrate?

For reflection

Read John 18:33–37. During the trial before Pilate, God revealed the deep and wonderful Mystery that Christ’s death would be the coronation of the King. Christ brought in God’s Kingdom through His own suffering and death. Meditate on why it was necessary for Jesus to suffer and die and ask God to help you faithfully take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Part 26/33 – **Holy Week** – **Bible Study**

Bible search

1. **Luke 9:21, 22** and **13:31–35**: Jesus clearly told His disciples that He would have to die in Jerusalem so that God’s plans might be fulfilled. *Why did the disciples fail to understand Jesu’s predictions of His death? Why did Jesus have to go to Jerusalem to complete His work as the great prophet? How does 13:34, 35 sum up Jesus ministry to God’s chosen people?*

2. **Matthew 21:1–9**: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the enthusiastic welcome of pilgrims who held Him as Messiah, David’s son. *Why did the people welcome Jesus with these cries? How did Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem fulfill Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming Messiah (Zechariah 9:9)?*

3. **Matthew 21:23–46**: Jesus taught in the temple, silence His enemies when they tried to trap Him, and warned them of the consequences of their persistent rejection. *How did Jesus answer the challenge to His authority? What does Jesus teach about God’s master plan in vv 33–43?*

4. **Matthew 24**: Jesus told His disciples that the New Testament age would bring great troubles. Yet God would still be with His faithful remnant and finally gather them to Himself in heaven. *Find several things Jesus told His followers to expect in the New Testament age (vv 13, 14, 22, 46)?*

5. **Matthew 26: 1–5, 14–16**: The Jewish leaders finalize their plans to arrest Jesus and have Him killed. *Give several reasons why the Jewish leaders had now decided to put Jesus to death (John 11:47–53). Why did Judast betray his master (John 13:2)?*

6. **Matthew 26:17–35**: Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. *How is the Lord’s Supper related to the Old Testament feast of the Passover? How does the Supper point to the fulfillment of God’s Old Testament promises?*

7. **John 14:1–31**: On the eve of His death, Jesus encouraged and strengthen His disciples with comforting messages. *What was the purpose of Jesus “going to the father”? How could the disciples best show that they were His followers? How could they receive strength to do this?*

For discussion

1. What does it mean for us that Jesus is “The Messiah”? Read 1 John 5:1–5. Discuss various ways we can confess the truth about Jesus.

2. Discuss:

a) why Jesus had to go the way of suffering and death to carry out God’s plans to save the world;

b) how God used sinful people to carry out His plan.

3.  As we view human society and its future, what should be our expectations as Jesus followers? Why is it important that we be constantly prepared for God to complete His plan (Luke 21:34–36)?