

John 12.1-19

Collision Course

MOST Important WEEK in HUMAN HISTORY > rightly called “HOLY WEEK”
Week that Savior of the World redeemed His People > Dying and Rising for Them

Begins PALM SUNDAY > Five Days before Jewish Passover in Jerusalem
One of BEST KNOWN Events in Earthly Life of Lord Jesus Christ

Significance > One Half of John’s Gospel > Approx. 33 years > ONE WEEK
Calendar’s of HUMAN HISTORY all CENTER on This Man > What He DID

1.Savior who is a King 2.Scripture which gives Knowledge 3. Survivor they wanted Killed

1. Savior who is a King

a. Sentenced > Jesus BORN to DIE > Shadow of Cross hung over CRADLE

Jewish High Priest CAIPHAS had Recently Said: “it is better for you that one man
die for the people than that the whole nation perish... So from that day on they
planned together to kill Him.” John 11.51,53

Sentence > by Infinite Wise plan of God > MADE in all ETERNITY
“the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world” Revelation 13.8

His DEATH > Fundamental to BECOMING a SAVIOR and a KING

First Words about Him on PLANET Earth > Garden of Eden > Point to Cross
What JESUS will do to Serpent: “he will crush your head” Genesis 3.15

700 years before BORN > Prophet Isaiah described His Death
“He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are
healed.” Isaiah 53.5

BABY LUAU > Old Man named Simeon took into his arms and said to Mother
"Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a
sign to be opposed" Luke 2.34

Gospel of Mark > days before Palm Sunday: “They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him” Mark 10.32

DISCIPLES Astonished > their SAVIOR-KING was Leading the Advance FULLY AWARE of COLLISION Awaiting Him in Jerusalem

v. 12 “The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.”

Approx 2 to 3 MILLION JEWISH WORSHIPPERS in JERUSALEM for Passover According to JOSEPHUS > Jewish Historian > came from all the ROMAN World

CENTRAL ACT in PASSOVER CELEBRATION > LAMB offered SACRIFICE 1 for EVERY FAMILY > Lamb had to be IN YOUR HOME for 3 Days

Millions of Worshippers IN JERUSALEM > ¼ Million SHEEP > Filled Streets Amidst this HEAVY TRAFFIC of Sacrificial Animals > Lord Jesus Comes

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1.29

Multitudes SHOUTED > “Hosanna” > SAVE US > What TRULY Needed! They NEVER IMAGINED just HOW God would SAVE THEM

“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. The only God I believe in was the one Nietzsche ridiculed as ‘God on the cross’. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who is immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world. But each time after a while I have had to turn away. And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured, figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered into our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross which symbolizes divine suffering.” John R.W. Stott

b. Sealed Jesus Body was PREPARED in Advance for HIS BURIAL

v. 3 Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.

LOVING ACT of Grateful Woman > HUMILITY and DEVOTION
MARY was a DESPERATE SINNER who now DELIGHTED in HIS GRACE

“She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.” Mark 14.8

SHARP CONTRAST > Reaction of Treasurer > JUDAS > HIS Money WASTED!
John Reveals JUDAS TRUE CHARACTER v. 6 “he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it”

TODAY > We want to be FRUGAL STEWARDS of KINGDOM MONEY
But do NOT be TOO CHEAP to Give EXTRAVAGANTLY to the Body of Christ

WHOEVER has been FORGIVEN MUCH will LOVE MUCH

Many NECESSARY things are LACKING in Christ's Mission Today
Because Christians are LESS like MARY and more like JUDAS

c. Submissive DONKEY was Jesus' VEHICLE of CHOICE

ROMAN Armies > Babylonians before > Rode into Jerusalem WAR HORSES
They came to CONQUER and in Every Way they LOOKED THE PART

There is a GENTLENESS to Jesus Kingdom

v. 14,15 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

Solomon had 12,000 Horses > Now ONE GREATER than Solomon HERE

"I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."
John 6.38

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name”

Philippians 2.8,9

d. Sovereign WILLING SUBMISSION Reveals His TRUE GREATNESS

Huge Crowds ACKNOWLEDGED His KINGLY RULE

v. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!”
 “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!”

DID NOT UNDERSTAND Full Impact of their Words

1st Phrase “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” > Psalm 118
 Sung by WORSHIPPERS Traveling to Jerusalem for the FEASTS

2nd Phrase “Blessed is the King of Israel” > NOT Found in that Psalm
 Expectant Crowds HOPEFUL EXPANDING of God’s Messianic Promises

LITTLE Understood > Came to BIND THE STRONG MAN > Set them FREE
 Roman Occupation paled INSIGNIFICANTLY to their ETERNAL BONDAGE

SOVEREIGN SERVANT > Orchestrating all the EVENTS

v. 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it

“The disciples...found things just as Jesus has told them. So they prepared the
 Passover.” Mark 14.16

ROMAN LEGIONS > Military VICE GRIP > thought they Controlled World

JEWISH Leaders > Ranks Swelled to Millions > Claimed City of Great King

SOVEREIGN RULE > Held in HIS HAND > Hand soon NAILED TO CROSS

v. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look
 how the whole world has gone after him!”

2000 Yrs later > Believers in EVERY NATION > Waving PALMS to King Jesus
 Over ONE BILLION > Men, Women, Boys, Girls FOLLOW this KING

Seminary Student – late 70’s – **1970’s** > in MISSIONS PRAYER GROUP
 One Zealot > Eagerly Praying for CENTRAL ASIA > Said “Amen” in Ignorance
 Passion > Central Asians HEAR GOSPEL > I agree, WHEREVER that IS?
 SOVEREIGN must have been SMILING > HERE I AM!

NO EXAGGERATION v. 19 “the whole world has gone after Him!”

JESUS was NOT BLOWING SMOKE when He Promised

"I have *other sheep*, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become *one flock with one shepherd*" John 10.16

Same Author > Book called REVELATION > Saw this Prophecy Fulfilled

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, *and palm branches were in their hands*”
Revelation 7.9

GOSPEL OF KINGDOM will be PREACHED in ALL NATIONS
SAINTS of God anticipate REAL TRIUMPHAL ENTRY of His SOON COMING

2. Scripture which gives Knowledge

a. Interprets IMPORTANT Point made by APOSTLE for our Faith TODAY

v. 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that *these things had been written about him* and that they had done these things to him.

FEW DAYS LATER > Roman Governor over Jerusalem ASKED

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. John 18.38

QUESTION still being asked > How do we Understand and Interpret Reality?

PALM SUNDAY > 1000’s of People Present > 1000’s of OPINIONS and IDEAS

OPINIONS are Like NOSES > Everyone Has ONE

Was Man on DONKEY a POWER GRABBING MEGLOMANIAC?

LAST DESPERATE attempt for FAME by a LIAR? A LUNATIC?

How can I Say > this was ACCOMPLISHMENT of our SALVATION
By our SOVEREIGN SAVIOR GOD??

VERY SIMPLE > ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the BIBLE tells me so’

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”
Psalm 119.130

FAITH COMMITMENT > Ultimate Authority > Final Truth Sacred Scripture

1st Yr. University Student > New Christian > BIOLOGY 101
Prof. Brilliant young woman > Ph.d. in EVOLUTION > Darwin Ultimate Truth
Met in Office One Day > Why do you believe in Evolution?
Carbon 14 Dating > Why believe in Carbon 14 Dating?? > Several More Answers
FINALLY she said “I Believe it BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT!”

UNDERSTOOD then EVERYONE Makes a FAITH COMMITMENT
Someone, Something, Some ULTIMATE ALLEGIANCE, Some Highest Truth

I BELIEVE > Cannot Know God apart from Jesus Christ
Cannot Know Jesus Christ apart from SCRIPTURE > OT & NT COMPLETE

I AM Emphasizing FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH > MANY Supporting TRUTHS

“Because argument is insufficient, it does not follow that it is unnecessary. What the Holy Spirit does in the new birth is not make a person a Christian regardless of the evidence, but on the contrary, to clear away the mists from his eyes and enable him to attend the evidence.”
J. Gresham Machen

b. Illumines We need both the WORD of God and the SPIRIT of God

v. 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. *Only after Jesus was glorified* did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

“the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” John 7.39

What does the GLORIFIED JESUS DO?

He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ John 20.22

INSEPARABLE & INVALUABLE > WORD of God and the SPIRIT of God
By SPIRIT of God we have the WORD / by the WORD we Know God’s SPIRIT

Be FILLED with SPIRIT? Read the Word!
UNDERSTAND the Word? Be Filled with the Spirit!

“God has condescended to teach me the way to heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that Book! At any price, give me the Book of God!”

John Wesley

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me.”

Martin Luther

But many of those JEWS who acclaimed JESUS with their HOSANAS > Blinded!
 “But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
 2 Corinthians 3.14-17

“The gospel is truth from God, which has been committed to our trust. Our responsibility is to present it as clearly, coherently and cogently as we can, and like the apostles to argue it as persuasively as we can. And all the time, as we do this, we will be trusting the Holy Spirit of truth to dispel people’s ignorance, overcome their prejudices and convince them about Christ.”
 John R.W. Stott

3. Survivor they wanted Killed

So thru WORD & SPIRIT – We see SAVIOR on a COLLISION Course
 If we want to FOLLOW HIM > We are on SAME COURSE

a. Attraction LAZARUS > Supporting Actor in Drama of Redemption

v. 9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him *but also to see Lazarus*, whom he had raised from the dead.

GREAT INTEREST > CNN sent Film Crew, even FOX NEWS was there!
 Could have SOLD TICKETS to See this RETURNEE from World of DEATH

How many are EAGER to see YOU? Are you EVIDENCE of RESURRECTION?
 NEIGHBORS gather PAIDYEST to see you COME DOWN STAIRS in Morning?

If you were BAIT, would the FISH be BITING?

KEY > Be a PERSON Filled with the Word of God and the Spirit of God

LAZARUS > Grew in his Attractiveness

v. 2 “Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.”

SIMPLE FORMULA > KNOW but Do not Always DO > STAY CLOSE to Jesus

ATTRACTION of the EARLY DISCIPLES “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to *recognize them as having been with Jesus.*”
Acts 4.13

b. Threat v. 10 “So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well”

FORERUNNERS of the Christian Army > SHOOTS THEIR WOUNDED!

Lazarus had been enjoying HEAVEN for 4 Days > GREAT FRUSTRATION
“Lord, can’t you find another DEAD GUY? I don’t need THIS!”

“To be brought back and have all one’s dying to do again was rather hard.”
C.S. Lewis

Jewish High Priest: “it is better for you that one man die for the people” John 11.51

PROBLEM > World is NEVER SATISFIED with ONLY ONE

From EARLIEST DAYS > Blood of the Martyrs became the SEED of the Church
“they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets” Revelation 16.6

After Jesus > Stephen > James > Paul > Peter & many Names only GOD KNOWS

More Martyrs for Jesus in 20th C than previous 19 C COMBINED!
21st C > ESCALATES > Believers shot dead in Church Last Sunday in Wisconsin

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” 2 Timothy 2.13

MARTYRS > Testify to the TRUTH of the GOSPEL > Men ENRAGED by Truth

The Marechale > Eldest Daughter of Wm Booth > founder of Salvation Army
Imprisoned for HER FAITH in 1883 > Switzerland

“Jesus was crucified...If you would win thousands who are without God, you must be ready to be crucified: your plans, your ideas, your likes and your inclinations.

Things have changed, you say, there is liberty now. Is there? Go and live Christ's life, speak as he spoke, teach what he taught, denounce sin wherever you find it, and see if the enemy will not turn on you with all the fury of hell."

War Cry by The Marechale

FEW DAYS after PALM SUNDAY > Jesus gave his Disciples a HEADS UP..
"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

John 15.18,19

Those who Follow Him > Then and Now > are on that same Collision Course

"Have you become a threat to anyone because of your testimony?...Does your life challenge anyone by its Christ-like character?...Does your testimony with its clear logic and unimpeachable experience strike home to the hearts of those who hear you?...Does your love for the lost expose, as it must, the great selfishness and hate of the world around you?. Then be prepared to be hated for Christ's sake. Jesus never hides his scars to win disciples. On the other hand, you can know that to be with Him in his suffering is to be identified with Him and to allow Him to bring glory through you to His own name."

James M. Boice

c. Blessing Wonderful, Eternal Result of Being with Christ

v. 11 on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

v. 17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.

OBVIOUS APPLICATION? Has anyone believed in Jesus BECAUSE OF YOU?

Can you say, like Paul could say to Philemon: "not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well"

Philemon 1.19

LEARN LESSON from the DONKEY of Palm Sunday

NOT Know > Name > Color > Size > Age > Parents > kind of CELL PHONE

But we KNOW > Vehicle for GLORY of God > LIFTED UP Lord Jesus Christ

KNOW People Shouted PRAISES to Jesus because DONKEY Did ITS JOB

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5.19,20

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵“Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.” ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

⁹Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

