

EIGHT DAYS — a story of Love, Sacrifice and Redemption

THE EASTER JOURNEY





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*“There is no greater love
than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* Jesus, John 15:13

EIGHT DAYS – the story of a journey from hope to despair and back again. A story of betrayal, sacrifice, and soaring, infinite love. A story of redemption for all.

EIGHT DAYS that changed the world forever.

EIGHT DAYS to relive the story.

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PALM **SUNDAY** to EASTER **SUNDAY**



LAY DOWN YOUR CLOAK

*A festival parade welcomes love to town;
but this love disarms and turns expectations upside down*

Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true.

As Jesus came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

So the disciples brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

As Jesus rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” Luke 18:31,19:29-31,35-38



DESTROY THIS TEMPLE

*The tables are turned, and the powers enraged;
but this love clears the path for something new*

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a market-place!"

But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

"All right," Jesus replied. **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."**

"What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" But when Jesus said "this temple", he meant his own body.

John 2:13-16,18-21



BEAUTIFUL THINGS

They sneer at the woman's "wasteful" gesture;
but this love values her and her deed forever

Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head.

Some of those at the table were indignant. "Why waste such expensive perfume?" they asked. "It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!" So they scolded her harshly.

But Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and

you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, **wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered** and discussed."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Mark 14:3-11



UNCHARTED TERRITORY

*The path ahead seems troubled and confusing;
but this love opens up a new way*

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

Jesus said, “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that

I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.”

“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”** John 13:1,34-35,14:1-6



REMEMBER ME

Bread, wine and betrayal: but this love invites us to remember

Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his

people – an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.”

Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. **Luke 22:14-16,19-20,39**

Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people.

Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.”

Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. **Matthew 26:47,50**



FINISHED

Violence, injustice and mob rule run wild;
but this love declares, “It is finished!”

Jesus was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor ... Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?”

“We wouldn’t have handed him over to you if he weren’t a criminal!” they retorted.

“Then take him away and judge him by your own law,” Pilate told them.

“Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied.

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him.

When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“Take him yourselves and crucify him,” Pilate said. “I find him not guilty.”

Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

They nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Jesus said, “**It is finished!**” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *John 18:28-31,19:1-2,6,16,18,30*

GOOD **FRIDAY**

WATCH THIS SPACE

Darkness and silence fall, and everything is lifeless;
but this love still works on in the deepest places

At midday, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "**This man truly was the Son of God!**" Mark 15:33-34,37-39

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. Luke 23:52-53,55-56

darkness

The tomb is sealed.

Night falls.

All that is left to do now...

Is wait.

3:00

stopped shining

whole land



Alive

DEAD MAN WALKING

The tomb seems like the end;
but this love is a Greater Love, and rolls the stone away

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in

clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”**

Luke 24:1-6 NIV

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ...

This is just the beginning and you can read the full story in the Bible, in the first four books of the second part called the ‘New Testament’.

This Easter see where the journey takes you.

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