



# FORTY Days - Easter Day by Day

(NIV, from Bible Gateway.com, compiled by Ken Park)

An 8 week "Easter" compilation: Wednesday April 1 to May 25, 33AD to (re)discover the beauty of God's plan.

Enhance your readings: highlight God's glory or grace, highlight particular acts of men or women, highlight what you can celebrate.

May God bless you, and open your eyes anew to this incredible story of His love. Please share any reflections you have, with your faith community.

## **OVERVIEW:**

(scriptures starting with)

- 1, Intro,** John 12  
**2-10, Passover / Last Supper:** Luke 22, Matt 26, John 13, Mark 14  
**11-20, Betrayal / Denial / Abuse:** John 18, Mark 14, Luke 22, Matt 26  
**21-28, Gethsemane / Arrest:** Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19, Matt 27  
**29-39, Crucifixion / Death / Burial:** Mark 16, Matt 28, Luke 24, John 20  
**40, Epilogue / Invitation: Acts 1, Luke 24,** Mark 16, John 21

## **ONE: Belief & Unbelief Among the Jews:**

**John 12: 37** Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" <sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: <sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." <sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. <sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God. <sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. <sup>45</sup> The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. <sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

## TWO: Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

**Luke 22:1** Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, <sup>2</sup> and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. <sup>4</sup> And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and **Matt 26:15** and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" <sup>5</sup> They were delighted and agreed to give him money. So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>6</sup> He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. **John 13:11** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>12</sup> On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" **Luke 22:8** Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."<sup>9</sup> "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. <sup>10</sup> He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup> and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."<sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

## THREE: The Passover

**John 13: 1** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **Mark 14: 17** When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. **Luke 22:14** When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." **John 13: 2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."<sup>9</sup> "Then,

Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."<sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.<sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.<sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.<sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.<sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.<sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.<sup>18</sup> "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned<sup>[a]</sup> against me.'<sup>19</sup> "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.<sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

#### **FOUR: New Covenant**

**Mark 14: 22** While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."<sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.<sup>24</sup> "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." he said to them.<sup>25</sup> "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."<sup>John 13: 21</sup> After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table."<sup>22</sup> The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"<sup>22</sup> His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.<sup>23</sup> One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.<sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."<sup>25</sup> Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish."<sup>21</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.<sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."<sup>28</sup> But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.<sup>29</sup> Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.<sup>30</sup> As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.<sup>31</sup> When he was

gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

### **FIVE: Lordship & Leadership**

**Luke 22:24** A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me in my trials. <sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

### **SIX: Jesus foretells of Peter**

**John 13: 33** "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. <sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." <sup>36</sup> Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." <sup>37</sup> Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>29</sup> Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." <sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." <sup>33</sup> But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." <sup>30</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." <sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

### **SEVEN: Jesus discourse with His disciples**

**John 14:1** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are go-

ing, so how can we know the way?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[c]</sup> in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."<sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."<sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."<sup>28</sup> "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. <sup>30</sup> I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me,<sup>31</sup> but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

## EIGHT: Jesus Identity in the Father

**John 15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’<sup>[b]</sup> If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.<sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

## **NINE: "Be Ready for what's Coming"**

**John 16** "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. <sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."<sup>16</sup> Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."<sup>17</sup> At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father?'"<sup>18</sup> They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."<sup>19</sup> Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"<sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.<sup>25</sup> "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. <sup>27</sup> No, the Father himself loves

## TEN: Jesus High Priestly Prayer

**John 17** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. <sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you<sup>[a]</sup> to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by<sup>[d]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. <sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

## ELEVEN: Crossing the Kidron to Gethsemane

**John 18: 1** When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. **Mark 14:26** When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. **Luke 22:35** Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. <sup>36</sup> He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup> It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment." <sup>38</sup> The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords. "That's enough!" he replied. **Mark 14: 32** They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." <sup>35</sup> Going a little farther - about a stone's throw, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon, he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." **Luke 22:43** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. **Mark 14:40** When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

## TWELVE: The Betrayal

**John 18: 2** Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples... " **Matt 26:47** While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." **John 18:4** Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" <sup>5</sup> "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the

ground. <sup>Matt 26:50</sup> Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." He approached Jesus to kiss him...<sup>Luke 22:48</sup> but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" <sup>John 18:7</sup> Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."<sup>9</sup> This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."<sup>Luke 22:49</sup> When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" <sup>Luke 22:52</sup> "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?" <sup>52</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled. This is your hour—when darkness reigns."<sup>Mark 26:50</sup> ...The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

### **THIRTEEN: Altercation in the Garden**

<sup>John 18:10</sup> Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>Luke 22:51</sup> But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. <sup>John 18:11</sup> Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."<sup>Matt 26:53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" <sup>Mark 14:50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.<sup>51</sup> A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup> he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. <sup>John 12: 12</sup> Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him <sup>13</sup> and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. <sup>Mark 14:53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. <sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

### **FOURTEEN: Jesus Before the Sanhedrin**

<sup>Mark 14:55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.<sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree.<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this

testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. <sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him. <sup>Matt 26:57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. <sup>58</sup> But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. <sup>59</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. <sup>60</sup> But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward <sup>61</sup> and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. <sup>John 18:19</sup> the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup> "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." <sup>22</sup> When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." <sup>Matt 26:64</sup> "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him <sup>68</sup> and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?" <sup>John 18:23</sup> "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" <sup>24</sup> Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

## **FIFTEEN: Peter Disowns Jesus**

<sup>John 18:15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, <sup>16</sup> but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. <sup>Mark 14: 66</sup> While Peter

was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup> When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. <sup>68</sup> But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. <sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." <sup>70</sup> Again he denied it. <sup>John 18: 26</sup> One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" <sup>Mark 14: 71</sup> He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." <sup>72</sup> Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

### **SIXTEEN: Judas hangs Himself**

**Matt 27:1** Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. <sup>2</sup> So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. <sup>3</sup> When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." <sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." <sup>7</sup> So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup> That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, <sup>10</sup> and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

### **SEVENTEEN: Jesus Before Pilate**

**LUKE 22:66** At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. <sup>67</sup> "If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, <sup>68</sup> and if I asked you, you would not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." <sup>70</sup> They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You say that I am." <sup>71</sup> Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips." <sup>John 18: 28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" <sup>30</sup> "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we

would not have handed him over to you."<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected.<sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"<sup>34</sup> "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."<sup>37</sup> "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."<sup>38</sup> "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him." **Luke 23:5** But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."<sup>6</sup> On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.<sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

## **EIGHTEEN: Jesus Before Herod**

**Luke 23:8** When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.<sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.<sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.<sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.<sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

## **NINETEEN: Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified**

**Luke 23:13** Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,<sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him.<sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.<sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."**John 19: 5** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"<sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,<sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the pal-

ace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." <sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).<sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.<sup>15</sup> But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. <sup>Luke 23:18</sup> The whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again.<sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"<sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him."<sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>Matt 27: 24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" <sup>25</sup> All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" <sup>Luke 23: 24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand.<sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. <sup>Mark 15:15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

## **TWENTY: The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

<sup>Luke 23: 63</sup> The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.<sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" <sup>Matt 27: 27</sup> Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

## TWENTY ONE: The Crucifixion of Jesus

**Mark 15: 21** A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. **Luke 23: 27** A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. **28** Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. **29** For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' **30** Then "they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" **31** For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" **Mark 15: 22** They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). **23** Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. **John 19:19** Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. **21** The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." **22** Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." **Mark 15: 25** It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. **John 19:23** His garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. **24** "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."

## TWENTY TWO: Two Criminals

**Matt 27: 38** Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. **39** Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads **40** and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" **41** In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. **42** "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. **43** He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" **Luke 23:34** Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." **39** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." **43** Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## **TWENTY THREE: Son of Mary**

**John 19:25** Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

## **TWENTY FOUR: The Death of Jesus**

**John 19: 28** Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. **Mark 15: 33** At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?") <sup>35</sup> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. **John 19: 30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." **Luke 23: 46** "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

## **TWENTY FIVE: The Aftermath**

**Matt 27: 51** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. **John 19: 47** The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." **Matt 27: 51** "Surely he was the Son of God!" <sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

## **TWENTY SIX: Jesus taken off the Cross**

**Mark 15: 40** Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. **John 19: 31** Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore

came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.<sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.<sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.<sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.<sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken,"<sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

## **TWENTY SEVEN: The Burial of Jesus**

**Matt 27: 57** As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.<sup>John 19: 38</sup> but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders...<sup>Mark 15:43</sup> a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.<sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.<sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.<sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.<sup>John 19: 39</sup> He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.<sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.<sup>41</sup> At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.<sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.<sup>Matt 27: 46</sup> Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.<sup>Luke 23: 55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.<sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

## **TWENTY EIGHT: The Guard at the Tomb**

**MATT 27: 62** The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.<sup>63</sup> "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'<sup>64</sup> So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."<sup>Luke 23: 66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

## TWENTY NINE: Jesus has Risen

**Mark 16** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" **Matt 28: 2** There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. **Mark 16:4** But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. **Luke 24: 4** While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **Matt 28: 5** "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## THIRTY: The Guards' Report

<sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

## THIRTY ONE: The Empty Tomb

**Luke 24:9** When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others... **John 20: 2** So (Mary Magdalene) came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" **Luke 24:11** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. **12** Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. **John 20:3** Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **12** Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. **11** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. **13** They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. **15** He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). **17** Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## THIRTY TWO: Road to Emmaus

**Luke 24:13** Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. **14** They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognizing him. **17** He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things

that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." <sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

### **THIRTY THREE: Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

**Luke 24: 33** They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. **John 20: 19** On the evening of that first day of the week...with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **Luke 24: 37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." <sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence. <sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." **John 20: 20** The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not

forgive them, they are not forgiven." **Luke 24: 45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.<sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### **THIRTY FOUR: Jesus Appears to Thomas**

**John 20: 24** Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **THIRTY FIVE: Jesus Restores Peter**

**John 21** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:<sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.<sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered.<sup>6</sup> He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.<sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.<sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

## THIRTY SIX: Jesus Reinstates Peter

**John 21:10** Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."<sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.<sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

## THIRTY SEVEN: John's Prophecy

**John 21:20** Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." <sup>23</sup> Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

## THIRTY EIGHT: The Great Commission

**Matt 27:16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Mark 16: 15** He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they

will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

### **THIRTY NINE: The Ascension of Jesus**

**Acts 1:3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Luke 24: 50** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.<sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **Acts 1:8** He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **Mark 16: 19** ;he sat at the right hand of God.

### **FORTY: EPILOGUE –Over to YOU!**

**Acts 1: 10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.<sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." **Luke 24: 52** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.<sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. **Mark 16: 20** Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. **John 21: 24** This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.<sup>25</sup> Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## **Come Celebrate Jesus Passion & Resurrection:**

March 25 Palm Sunday Worship Celebration 10:30 am  
Birchmount Community Centre

March 29 Maundy Thursday: Service 7:00 pm  
First Baptist Church 101 Huron St.

March 30 Good Friday: Service 10:30 am  
Chester Village Seniors Residence  
3555 Danforth Ave. west of Warden

April 1 Easter Celebration: Sunrise 6:30 am  
Rosetta McClain Park  
5 Glen Everest Rd. & Kingston Rd.

Celebration 10:30 am  
Birchmount Community Centre

**May God Bless you and Keep you in His love.**

Any questions about these events?

Contact Pastor Ken at 647-504-3285,  
pastor\_ken@sympatico.ca



Go to: [churchatthecentre.com](http://churchatthecentre.com)