

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS



First Baptist Church
SALINAS  ONE Message
ONE Purpose
ONE Response

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SALINAS

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 14
Seder Dinner - 6:00pm

Friday, April 15
Good Friday Service of Shadows - 7:00pm

Resurrection Sunday Events

April 17

Sunrise Service - 6:30am

Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00am

Worship Service - 10:30am

Resurrection Day, April 17

Read John 20:11-18

“Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying...” (John 20:11). For Mary, hope was gone. The One who had reached into her troubled life and gave her perspective, peace, and hope was nowhere to be found. He really was gone and because He was gone, hope was gone as well. What would she do next? Why even believe that things will get better? Yes, she saw angels and someone she believed to be the gardener, but the One she longed to see was nowhere to be found.

Then, it happened. She heard her name. Oh, she had heard her name countless times throughout her life, yet the sound of this particular voice saying her name changed everything for her. It was His voice that spoke into her life years prior that changed everything for her. It was His voice that spoke into her darkness that she was able to see light. It was His voice that spoke into her hopelessness that gave her hope. Jesus said her name and hopelessness disappeared.

When hope seems nowhere to be found, tears flowing and anxiety rising, may you take the time to be still and listen for that voice that says your name. He is Risen! He is Risen, INDEED!!!

Sunday, April 10

Read Luke 18:31-33

And talking to the twelve, He said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging Him, they will kill Him, and on the third day, He will rise.” Luke 18:31-33

Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem oblivious to what was going to happen. The cheering crowds followed by betrayal, flogging, mockery, death and more was all part of the plan.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all”. Isaiah 53:6

On this Palm Sunday, do you see the beauty of our Savior and the self-sacrificial love for us that was in each step He took during Holy Week?

My prayer is that each one of us would encounter Him in worship/prayer this week and that we would be changed by the experience and be drawn closer in Spirit to our Savior and church family.

Saturday, April 16

Read Matthew 27:62-66

“But you, Daniel, conceal these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time” (Daniel 12:4a). With these words God instructed Daniel to receive a prophecy concerning the latter days, until the appointed time. Roughly 400-500 years later, Jesus lay dead in a heavily guarded and *sealed* cave, crucified. The penetrating “light [which] shines in the darkness” (John. 1:5a), was now enveloped by darkness itself, seemingly snuffed out.

His detractors were concerned this “deceiver” might have the last laugh and escape the grave (Matt. 27:63) after all, they remembered Him saying He would. (Matt. 16:21, 17:23, 20:19; Mk. 8:31, 9:31, 10:34; Lk. 9:22, 18:33, 24:7, 46) How embarrassing that would’ve been for the naysayers. But instead of being *Signed*, *Sealed*, and *Delivered*, completely over to death, our Lord was *Sealed*, *Sabbath[ed]*, and *Revealed*.

Yes, He rested, not because He needed to, but because, like the raising of Lazarus (John. 11:39), it was important to wait it out, to the point of potential rot, for death could not hold Him (Acts 2:24), “and the darkness did not comprehend [this light]” (John. 1:5). Jesus was about to make the most astounding statement in the history of all mankind.

So, 2 am came and went, so did 3 am, 4 am, 5 am, could Jesus do it? He could, for He had all power in His hand to make it happen (John. 10:17-18). The *Resurrector*, resurrected, and by placing our faith in Him, He has promised to raise us up, too (John 11:25), in newness of life (Romans 6:6-10).

And one day, the Word will reveal all the secret words Daniel did not know; He will reveal what Paul could not speak (II Cor. 12:3-4); and the One who was dead, but rose again (Rev. 1:17-18), will break all seals (Rev. 5:1-5), like the one that entombed Him, to reveal the full purpose of God.

Darkness is beginning to recede; the chill of the night is waning; here comes the sun (Mal. 4:2; Lk. 8:43-44) ...

Monday, April 11

Read Matthew 22:36-40

During his last few days on earth Jesus presented many teachings to the disciples, the Pharisees, and to others who followed him. Some of the teachings were challenging (telling the Sadducees, “You know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” Matt. 22:29), some a bit confusing (talking about the tribulation in Matt. 24), all of them important. Through the teachings of his last few days, we learn the significance of faith, the importance of obedience, the gravity of neglecting justice and mercy and faithfulness.

All of the teachings from his last few days (and his last few years, for that matter) can be summed up in his response to the lawyer who tried to trick him with the question, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” To which Jesus replies, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets” (Mt. 22:36-40).

Love God, love your neighbor. Put God first, put others second. Pursue God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, and ALL your mind and the love for others will flow from that pursuit. A command that seems so simple yet can be a daily struggle.

This week let us be mindful of how God is nudging us to love him and others as we reflect on how Jesus exhibited his love to God through obedience, and to others through his death and resurrection.

Friday, April 15

Read John 19:28-30

“Jesus said, *“It is finished.”* With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30). Usually, when one thinks of a finish line there is a sense of victory, yet on that Friday afternoon seeing Jesus hanging on the cross, a sense of victory was not on anyone’s mind.

For the Roman soldiers it was simply another crucifixion. For the Jewish leadership it was a statement that they were still in charge and would not be ridiculed by some rabbi from Galilee. For a few observers it was absolutely devastating because the One they believed to be the long-awaited Messiah is now dead.

A sense of victory was not on anyone’s mind. Yet, in one Person’s mind there was a sense of victory because in that one Person’s mind they knew they had accomplished what they came to do, and no one could take that away from them. In that one Person’s mind, victory was obtained because they paid the full price that no one else could. In that one Person’s mind, victory was obtained even in the darkest moment.

It was dark that Friday afternoon, but Jesus knew He had done what He came to do, and that darkness would not win the day. What was finished on Friday will give light to a new beginning on Sunday. Jesus “finished” well.

Tuesday, April 12

Read 1 Corinthians 15:56-58

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not *in vain* in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:56-58)

The sting of death and sin was exposed by the law of God but conquered by Christ in His death. Christ’s resurrection proves that we are not under the law any longer. We are no longer subject to the penalty of the law, which is death. This freedom from sin is possible only if we claim and live through His resurrection.

We, as children of God, can and should stand firm and work diligently because we have an eternal, resurrected destiny with Jesus Christ. We should be diligent in working for the Lord under His direction and victory because we can do nothing without Him! Furthermore, we are told our labor in the Lord is not in vain. This reminds me of one of God’s messages from my Holy Land trip. I was fortunate enough to visit Israel and Jordan in 2019 with a group from FBC of Salinas. On our last day in Jordan, we were on the top of Mount Nebo overlooking where God showed Moses the promised land. Dr. Paul Wright of Jerusalem University College charged us to think how we might be a servant for the Lord and take the steps into the promised land God has for us. The promised land might be hard to see physically because we cannot see the future as humans, but the fact is there is the promised land, where God desires for us to keep our focus on Him, for all of us.

Wednesday, April 13

Read Psalm 41:9

King David knew the pain of betrayal and the even greater pain of betrayal by a friend, writing in Psalm 41:9, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me”. Now, on this Wednesday of Holy Week the Son of David will walk the same path of agony. Judas will turn on him, Peter will soon deny him, and the other 10 disciples will scatter.

The burden that Jesus must bear, He will bear alone. The definitive work of redemption for all who will ever believe will not be a team effort.

In his betrayal of Jesus, Judas saw value in 30 pieces of silver, however, was blind to the value of Jesus.

Do you see the value of Jesus? Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends, even when they forsake him.

Thursday, April 14

Read Matthew 26:20-29

Maundy Thursday is so named from the Latin word for “commandment” (*maundy* = mandate) given by Jesus at the Last Supper. So what was the commandment? Was it to preach the gospel? To make disciples? To change the world? Not in this case. Nor was the command to eat and drink a specific type of meal. The command given was to **remember**; to remember who Jesus is and what He did for them.

That “remembering” goes beyond just eating some bread and drinking some grape juice. “*The bread is my body: the wine is my blood.*” We remember this so that we realize how valuable we are; so valuable that God would leave the glory of perfect peace, love, and comfort to come to a dirty, angry planet just to break His body and spill His blood...because dying an incredibly painful death was the only way to get us back.

Make it a habit to remember what your sin cost God. Today, remember what Jesus was willing to do to get you. Remember how much He loves you. Remember that you’re the most important thing in the universe to Him. Tell Him “thanks.”