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TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE



# Jesus Was Prepared...Are You?

<u>Luke 19:9-10</u>: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus knew when his time would be up and his sacrifice would be complete. He knew - down to the very hour - he knew. He understood the pain and suffering that awaited and he also understood the immense difficulty and challenge that would unfold, not only for him but for his followers as well. So, knowing all of this, what did Jesus do to prepare himself to overcome? Where did he go, how did he act and what did he say? Stay with us as we observe what our Master did to prepare to finish his walk of sacrifice, so we can learn how to handle our own.

# (1)) The last week of Jesus Christ's life, *TruthorTradition.com*

• There are the four gospels that talk about the life of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Well, starting in Matthew 21 we are into the last week of Christ's life. Now there are only 28 chapters. That means more than twenty-five percent of the entire book of Matthew is in the last week of Jesus Christ's life. Mark starts in chapter 11 - it only has 16 chapters. So again, more than a quarter of the book of Mark - more than twenty-five percent of the book of Mark is just about the last week of Christ's life. Luke starts in chapter 19 - there are 24 chapters. That means almost 25 percent of Luke is just on the last week of Christ. And John starts in chapter 12 and there are 21 chapters. So, it's moving toward half of the book. Something like 46 percent of the Gospel of John is on the last week of Jesus Christ.

Let's go back a few weeks before his last week and begin our look at his preparation with his greatest miracle: John 11:41-44: This restoration of life was an unmistakable evidence of God's power. Lazarus had been dead for four days! What is the result of this miraculous restoration of life? John 11:47-48, 53-54: In Ephraim, Jesus was far enough away from the plotting but close enough to walk right back into the line of fire when appropriate! John 11:55-57: This event set Jesus on the final path of his short human life, so in a way, the raising of Lazarus was the catalyst for the way Jesus would prepare himself for crucifixion.

How did Jesus prepare? He performed a miracle of such magnitude and in such an open and viewable manner that it would bring out men's true colors, for by this miracle they would either line up to praise God or line up to destroy the messenger!

Jesus did not shy away from the attention that would happen from this miracle. Several days probably passed and Jesus finally came to Jericho on his way to his eventual destination of Jerusalem.

(Source: Biblical commentary by McGee) Jericho was the city that God had given into the hand of Joshua. A curse was placed on whoever would rebuild it. The man who rebuilt it in the days of Ahab reaped the curse in all its fullness. In Jesus' day it was like a resort area, the Las Vegas of that time. Many people spent their vacations there. Here the publicans lived. The publicans were like the modern Mafia. They were tax gatherers and were despised.

Luke 19:1-10: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.

Just like our Lord - recognize the sinner in front of you (from the inside out) by name and seek his company!

<sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, he has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.

Just like the average man - judging the man from the outside in!

<sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.

Just like a sinner who is repentant from the heart - be willing to help those in need and make right that which you have done wrong!



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<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.

*How did Jesus prepare*? He does what he came to do - Jesus brings a fallen man back in line with righteousness as a picture of the worldwide redemption his sacrifice will bring about in his kingdom!

Zacchaeus is a picture of the grand repentance - the changing of direction - the world will experience.

<u>Luke 19:11-13</u>: Jesus read their thoughts, that the kingdom was about to occur. This parable was designed to teach them that it was not yet time. He always found a way to prepare his followers for difficulty.

How did Jesus prepare? He is as sensitive to the crowd as he always is and teaches them that while the worldwide redemption is not yet to be, they who would be his followers would have a high level of responsibility and opportunity in his absence. Are we that selfless?

John 12:1-7

How did Jesus prepare? He allowed himself to receive a costly, beautiful and symbolic gift.

Word spread that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem - who would show up to see him?

<u>John 12:9-10</u>: (NKJV) <sup>9</sup>Now a great many of the Jews knew that he was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also.

The Tenth of Nisan (Palm Sunday): A compilation of <u>Mark 11:1-11</u>, <u>Matthew 21:1-11</u>, <u>Luke</u> <u>19:28-44</u> and <u>John 12:12-19</u>

<u>Mark 11:1-3</u>: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, Why are you doing this? just say this, The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately. <u>Matthew 21:4-5</u>: <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey. John 12:16: His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The prophecy contained in the above text: Zechariah 9:9-12: (NKJV) <sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey... He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you.

<u>Mark 11:4</u>: <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <u>Luke 19:33</u>: its owners asked them, what are you doing, untying the colt? <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <u>Matthew 21:6</u>: <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <u>Luke 19:37</u>: As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, <u>Mark 11:8</u>: <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields... (Among them was) the whole multitude of the disciples, <u>John 12:17-18</u>: <sup>17</sup>the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. <sup>18</sup>It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.



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(Source: John Trapp, an English Anglican Bible commentator) (A very great multitude) The crowd was unified behind Jesus - the son of David, Verse 8. ...Bondinius saith he was met at this time by 300,000 Jews, some whereof went before Christ, some followed after, according to the solemn rites and reverence used to be given to earthly kings in their most pompous triumphs. This was the Lord's own work.

*How did Jesus prepare*? He knew the prophecies and was willing to fully live their fulfillment.

Luke 19:37-38: ...(they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven! <u>Matthew 21:9</u>: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! <u>Mark 11:9-10</u>: <sup>9</sup>Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

The people expected a Messiah who would deliver them from the Roman rule at that time. There is a significant connection to the original Passover when Israel was freed from Egypt.

How did Jesus prepare? He controlled those things that were within his power to be where

he was supposed to be and relied upon God's overruling for the rest.

# The Lamb enters the house

Exodus 12:3: Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

Exodus 12:5-6: <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.



#### Jesus enters Jerusalem

<u>John 1:29</u>: On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!

<u>1 Peter 1:19</u>: but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, [even the blood] of Christ.

Leviticus 17:11: For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

## The blood of the lamb

Exodus 12:7,13: <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.



## The saving power of the Redeemer

<u>1 Peter 1:19</u>: but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ.

<u>Hebrews 10:19-22</u>: (NRSV) <sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The only salvation available <u>as a deliverance from slavery</u> for Israel and <u>as a deliverance from</u> <u>certain death for the firstborn</u> was the blood of the lamb. This blood was to cover them completely, as symbolized in the striking of it on the two doorposts and the lintel.



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crowd proclaimed that Jesus was the son of David, a prophet and healer and they were immediately looking for deliverance. This meant they believed Jesus could deliver them.

Luke 19:39-44: <sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, Teacher, order your disciples to stop. <sup>40</sup>He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out. <sup>41</sup>As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>Indeed, the The Passover Lamb vs. Jesus as the Lamb

Carlos Ca	
Unblemished lamb taken in as a King on Nisan 10	Jesus received on Nisan 10
Lamb slain on Nisan 14	Jesus slain on Nisan 14
Lamb died late afternoon "at even"	Jesus died at 3pm "the 9 <sup>th</sup> hour"
The blood delivered the firstborn and the nation	His blood delivered the firstborn (his church) and the rest of the world

days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.

Jesus' words and actions acknowledge that the plan was inexorably moving forward and could not be stopped.

*How did Jesus prepare?* He announced the irrevocability of God's design and continued with prophecies regarding Israel's future.

<u>Matthew 21:10-11</u>: There was turmoil and excitement at the prospect of "Hosanna!" <u>John 12:19</u>: The Pharisees then said to one another, you see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him! This was probably the truest utterance that the Pharisees could give, for the time would come when Jesus would truly have all of the world follow after him!

Here is a sampling of what Jesus did after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem: He withers a fig tree: <u>Matthew 21:18-19</u>: The fig tree in Scripture represents Israel. He cleanses the Temple: <u>Mark 11:15-17</u>: By turning their tables, Jesus scattered the money all over. The robbers were fighting with each other deciding whose money was whose. Notice also he does not try to ruin their livelihood; for example, he does not set the doves free. He just wanted to put things in order and have them stop cheating the people.

*How did Jesus prepare*? He focused on the coming rejection of Israel based upon their sinful ways.

Jesus was not afraid to deal with the reality that was to come. Are we afraid in our preparations in this present evil world? We need to stand up for what we believe to be truth. Jesus encourages his followers: <u>Mark 11:23-26</u> Jesus deals with the Pharisees and the Sadducees: <u>Mark 11:27-28</u> <u>Matthew 22:1-3</u> <u>Matthew 22:15</u> <u>Matthew 22:34</u> Jesus calls out the Pharisees: <u>Matthew 23:27</u> Jesus foretells his return to his followers: <u>Matthew 24:3</u> Jesus continues to teach in parables to all: Wise and Foolish Virgins, Talents, Sheep and Goats... All spoken to put in order the things that would be coming to pass after his ascension, from the age of the Gospel right through to the Day of Judgment. Jesus warns his disciples of coming events: <u>Matthew 26:1-2</u> Matthew 26:3-4

How did Jesus prepare? He applied his knowledge of prophecy, he focused, prophesied, healed, encouraged, taught, answered, prayed, gave and received - Jesus did what he always did!

Have we set the habits of living a Christ-like life every day so that when the intensity of our trials come, we can continue to do exactly what we have always done in following in his footsteps? That is what we are called to do.

So, Jesus was prepared, are you? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!