

THE HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

He only has a few days to live. He knows what is coming, and that after 33 years of walking on the earth he will soon be back with His Father. If you knew that the end of your time here was near, what would you do? Jesus continued to give us an example each day of how to live, and eventually how to die. While we cannot pinpoint exactly what happened each day, we can see the series of events that led from His arrival in Bethany six days before Passover to His death on the cross days later.

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Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. (John 12:1)

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, (Mat. 26:6)

When he arrived in Bethany, Jesus went to a familiar place, and His friends were there. He had supper, served by Martha, and Mary anointed Him with oil. These events were recorded in three of the Gospels but only in John did it name the disciple who questioned the use of costly ointment to anoint Jesus.

There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. (John 12:2-8)

Jesus mentions that he knows what is coming. Sometime after this, Judas decided to betray Jesus.

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him. (Mat. 26:14-16)

There are only a few days left for Him, but there are still prophecies to be fulfilled.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of

Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. (Zec. 9:9)

Jesus knew all that needed to be done, all that needed to be fulfilled, and all that was still ahead of him in a short period of time. It was time to ride a donkey into Jerusalem.

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. (Mat. 21:1-11)

Once He arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple, cleansed it, and taught those who would listen. There were still people to teach, and there was still work to be done. This was a powerful example for us to not give up trying to help others and teach others, no matter what is in front of us. We do not know when our time will be up but Jesus did, and He still made time to help others.

And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him. (Luke 19:45-48)

He taught several parables during this time, giving memorable lessons that are still relevant today. On one of His journeys over this time period, he taught a powerful lesson using a fig tree.

Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (Mat. 21:18-22)

His time was getting closer. Judas had set the wheels in motion to betray Jesus all while acting like He knew nothing of a plot. Jesus knew that he needed to create a little closure for his disciples. To help them understand what was before all of them. He also needed to establish several tenants of the new law and to create the memorial so that they would never forget. He did all of this in an upper room with unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. Imagine being Jesus, knowing that one of your closest followers had betrayed you and that death was close. It was now time to let the disciples know

that the betrayer was amongst them.

And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! (Luke 22:14-22)

After the supper, Jesus did something that was unexpected by the disciples and while doing so, he taught them another lesson.

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was

set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. (John 13:4-17)

After this, they sung a hymn and then went to the garden of Gethsemane.

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. (Mat. 26:30)

The time had come. Betrayal was at hand. What did Jesus do? He prayed and encouraged the disciples to do the same.

And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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*sorrow, And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray,
lest ye enter into temptation. (Luke 22:39-46)*

From here, He was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter three times, tried, and sentenced to be crucified. He knew all week what was going to happen and still showed His disciples and us how to live. He showed us, even if we know what is coming to keep our focus on what is important. That is a powerful lesson for us. We get distracted, we forget to help show others the light that is in us, and we do not always forgive others easily. Jesus knew it was Judas, but he did not yell, or fight him, or even have him held by the other disciples. He forgave him and let him do what needed to be done.

He only had a few days to live but He lived like He had an eternity.

A.D.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Hymn lyrics by ISAAC WATTS (Public Domain)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER
October 10 - 12	7pm Fri. & Sat., 10:30 am Sunday	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Which two tribes of Israel were not named after sons of Jacob?
2. What does the law say to do when you see a bird in its nest?
3. Who said, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel," when he saw Jesus?
4. Which supernatural being or beings does the Bible say the Sadducees did not believe in?
5. Which evangelist baptized the Ethiopian eunuch?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Who was also known as Jedidiah?
SOLOMON (2 Sam. 12:24-25)
2. What was the name of Mered's wife who was the daughter of Pharaoh?
BITHIAH (1 Chr. 4:18)
3. Which two Apostles are described as being the "son of Alphaeus"?
JAMES & LEVI(MATTHEW) (Mark 2:14; 3:18)
4. In which city of the Promised Land was the tabernacle (tent of meeting) originally located?
SHILOH (Jos. 18:1)
5. What kind of tree did Jesus curse?
FIG (Mark 11:12-14, 20-21)