

Come, Follow Me – April 14 – 21

Easter

The *Come, Follow Me for Individuals and Families* manual does a beautiful job of focusing on the atonement of Christ, His suffering and sacrifice. We are going to focus on the context in which the events of the last week of His life took place.

Jerusalem was always a dangerous place for Christ and He didn't spend much time there. He spent most of His time preaching in Galilee. But He prophesied to the apostles that He would have to go and there would be put to death:

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day (Matthew 16:21).

Christ first went beyond the Jordan River to the Judean wilderness and Jericho, just north of the Dead Sea. He took His apostles with Him and great multitudes followed Him (Matthew 19:1). He performed miracles there, and of course, the Pharisees showed up to tempt Him. In Matthew 20 we see Him going up to Jerusalem. (Note that in Israel, Jerusalem is always "up," not because of its elevation, but because it is the Holy City.)

And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again (Matthew 20:17 - 19).

We then get to the scriptures in the lesson manual, beginning at Matthew 21 with the Triumphal Entry. Christ Himself arranged for the ass foal to carry Him into Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9—

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.

The members of the Sanhedrin knew their scriptures and so did the people. This was a brazen statement by Christ that He was the King of the Jews. The people fully participated and hailed Him as the Messiah. The waving of palm branches is symbolic, a part of Feast of Tabernacles that welcomes the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and represents final judgment and salvation.

The following day, Jesus cleansed the temple, overturning tables and driving out the money changers and merchants selling temple animals. Still the multitudes sought Him, and still, He healed and taught. Children in the temple cried Hosanna to the Son of David, and Christ testified to the Pharisees that they spoke the truth. Everything that Christ did seemed meant to inflame the Jewish leaders against Him. Virtually all of Matthew 23 is a diatribe from Jesus against the Jewish leaders:

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet (Matthew 21 43 - 46).

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves (Matthew 23:15).

In Matthew 24 we see Christ preparing His apostles, giving them prophecies of the Last Days. Matthew 25 begins with Christ saying that it's two days until the Passover and they need to make preparations.

If you look at a daily account of the last week in Christ's life, Wednesday is empty and Christ is crucified on Friday. Christians have struggled for centuries to make Friday-to- Sunday work out to be three days and three nights in the tomb.

It doesn't work, because Christ was crucified on Thursday.

The Thursday Crucifixion



Christ celebrated the Passover one day earlier than most people in Jerusalem, on Wednesday. When Christ commanded the Passover celebration, it was to last 8 days, but by the time He was born, the Jews had contracted it to 7 days. Christ, His disciples, and the Essenes followed the old pattern. He was crucified on Thursday and taken down from the cross for the High Holy Sabbath first day of Passover. There were two Sabbath days in a row that year, with the normal Sabbath day, Saturday, the next day.

Christ left that Wednesday feast to be betrayed and arrested. He was thrust before the Sanhedrin to be tried according to Jewish law. The Law of Moses includes trial law, and the Sanhedrin broke many of those laws when they tried the Savior. The irony must have been profound, since Christ is the one who gave them that law.

Christ was then sent to Pilate, to Herod, and then back again. He was presented to the people and then left to the Romans to fulfill the wishes of the Jewish leaders. Don't put too much stock in the group of Jews choosing Barabbas over Jesus or yelling "crucify Him!" Caiaphas and his cronies made sure that the crowd was full of their own sympathizers.

Christ was crucified on Thursday afternoon. Thus, Christ was crucified at the same time as most of the lambs in the temple. He was taken down from the cross before sundown on Thursday for the High Holy first day of Passover Week. He was in the tomb a full three days and three nights. He rose the morning of Bikkurim, the Honored Son wave offering, symbolic of the resurrection.

Richard K. Scott wrote a paper showing that Christ was crucified on Thursday using the Book of Mormon account. You can find it in the Perks section of ThirdHour or [at this link](#).

Come, Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Materials Needed: One plastic grocery sack and one Easter Scavenger Hunt List for each child (see printable below).

Activity:

1. Take a walk outside and find and place each of the items on the list in a bag.
2. When you arrive home, have the children pull out each item, one at a time, and discuss the significance of each. You may choose to look up a scripture related to the object.
 - Branch = the people waved palm branches at Jesus' triumphal entry (Matt. 21:1-11)
 - Something prickly = crown of thorns worn by Jesus (Mark 15:17)
 - A piece of wood = the cross was made out of wood (Matt. 27:32-35)
 - Something no longer alive = the Savior truly died (Matt. 27:50)
 - Something white = the white linen Christ was wrapped in before being placed in the tomb (Mark 15:46)
 - A stone = the huge stone at the opening of the tomb that the angel rolled away (Matt. 28:2)
 - Something living = to remind us that Christ was resurrected and lives again (Luke 24:23, Mark 16:5-7, 1 Cor. 15:4)

Easter

Scavenger Hunt

- A branch
- Something prickly
- A piece of wood
- Something no longer alive
- Something white
- A stone
- Something living



THIRD HOUR

Easter

Scavenger Hunt

- A branch
- Something prickly
- A piece of wood
- Something no longer alive
- Something white
- A stone
- Something living



THIRD HOUR