

Traveling with Jesus Week 6

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of -the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" - Matthew 21:8-9 (CEB)

I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom." Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

- Matthew 26:29-30 (CEB)

But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away. - Matthew 26:56 (CEB)

Pilate said, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify him!" But he said, "Why? What wrong has he done?" They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

- Matthew 27:22-23 (CEB)

From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, ... Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died.

- Matthew 27:45, 50 (CEB)

Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had carved out of the rock. After he rolled a large stone at the door of the tomb, he went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting in front of the tomb.

- Matthew 27:59-61 (CEB)

How can I travel with the REAL Jesus?

_____ rather than _____

_____ rather than _____

Live with _____ **rather than** _____

ReFocus Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help you delve deeper into the theme of the message from Sunday's worship service whether or not you heard the message. The mind works & the Spirit speaks differently when you write versus when you just think, so write your answers down after each day's readings. You may get different insights by writing or typing into a computer, or you can use an unopened pen or unsharpened pencil & "write" by scratching a piece of paper. Then pray a prayer for God to help you live into anything that the Spirit has brought up to you during this devotional time.

This week is Holy Week, the time between Palm/Passion Sunday & Resurrection Sunday. Therefore, this week's ReFocus Guide will focus on selected readings about the time between Jesus' Last Supper & his crucifixion. This portion of the Gospel is believed, by scholars, to be the first portion of Jesus' life that was written.

Day 1 – Matthew 26:17-30, Exodus 12:1-30

In this passage, Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with his disciples. The first Passover meal was when the Jewish people were in Egypt & the angel of death passed over their houses as it came to take the firstborn of people & animals from the land of Egypt. During Jesus' meal with the disciples, he gave them new instructions for what to do during the Passover meal: to remember his actions. In doing this he is equating himself with that of the Passover lamb. The blood of Passover lamb allowed the angel of death to pass over & Jesus' blood allows Sin to pass over us. *What significance does communion have for you? How does it make you feel when you remember what Jesus has done for you? How does remembering this change the way you live your life?*

Day 2 – Matthew 26:36-56

Jesus went into the garden to pray for what was to come. He asked God if it was possible to take what was coming away, but in the end, Jesus wanted God's will to be done. This example of submission to the will of God is one that is important for us to see. Too often we get stuck in our comfort of wanting only what we want. Unlike Jesus, we too often choose that our will be done rather than God's will be done. *Where is the Spirit showing you that you are insisting on your own way rather than accepting God's? What is the Spirit asking you to do today?*

Day 3 – Matthew 26:31-35, Matthew 26:69-74

Peter had the best of intentions. He could not even think of a time when he would deny & fall away from Jesus. He insisted that it would not happen. Yet it did, & when he realized it, he broke down & cried. Many times we are like Peter. We insist that we would never deny or fall away from Jesus yet we do every day & don't even realize it. Today, allow the Spirit to show you where you are insisting you are following Jesus, yet in reality, you are not. *What has the Spirit lifted up to you? How do you feel now that you are shown this? How is the Spirit leading you to now follow Jesus more closely?*

Day 4 – Matthew 27:15-26

In this scene, Jesus could have been released by Pilate yet the crowd, in Greek the word is better translated as mob, was persuaded to turn on Jesus & demand his crucifixion. It is probably that some of the people in this mob were the same people who just a few days earlier were welcoming Jesus as their king. The words, "Crucify him" are hard to read & even harder to speak. We don't want to think of ourselves as part of the mob that is crying out for Jesus to be crucified, yet as hard as it is to hear, every time we insist on our way rather than God's way, we are one of this mob. *When have you been persuaded to follow a way other than the Way of Christ? What can you do with the help of God to not be persuaded again? Is someone or something trying to persuade you to go against Christ today?*

Day 5 – Matthew 27:32-61

Today reflect on these words. Reread them. Ask the Spirit to speak to you. *What is the Spirit's message for your life today?*