

Hello, I've been asked to speak about Holy Week, specifically the time between when the Savior enters Jeruslahem on Palm and up to the last supper. Weeks ago, while thinking about this topic I remembered a question I have heard before. "If you had one week to live, how would you spend it?" Many thoughts come to mind but I think a common theme most people would answer is that we would probably prioritize the most important things, and not waste any of that time with things that don't matter. Christ had a mission, he had tasks to complete. I was curious about how much of the content in the gospels is from the Saviors last week. I did a little research.

- **Matthew:** About **33%** of the Gospel focuses on the last week.
- **Mark:** Around **40%** is devoted to these events.
- **Luke:** Roughly **25%** covers the final week.
- **John:** Nearly **50%** of the Gospel is about Jesus' last week.

On average, **about one-third** of the Gospels focus in on the last week of Christ's mortal ministry.

Christ walked this Earth for 33 years, served a mortal ministry for about 3 to 3.5 years, and about a third of His biography covers one week.

I'd like to share the events of these few days with you, and I would like you to think about what Christ was experiencing and prioritizing and accomplishing.

SUNDAY

The triumphal Entry, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah.

Jesus Arrives at Bethphage and the Mount of Olives

He enters Jerusalem

Christ's first act after entering Jeruslahem is an act of compassion. He weeps for Jerusalem, He mourns that the city will face destruction for rejecting Him. Luke 19: 41-44

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,
42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things *which belong* unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.
43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,
44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Then He visited the temple, He didn't cleanse it yet,
then returned to Bethany.

MONDAY

Returns to Jerusalem

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (Symbolizing Israel's Spiritual Barrenness)

- On the way to Jerusalem, He sees a fig tree with no fruit and **curses it**, saying it will never bear fruit again (Matthew 21:18–19).

Then He returns to the temple again. This time He Cleanses the temple.

He **overturns tables** of money changers and drives out merchants, saying:

- *"My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."* (Matthew 21:12–13).

Jesus Teaches and Heals in the Temple

Blind and lame people come to Him, and He heals them.

Children praise Him, calling Him "the Son of David." The chief priests and scribes are furious (Matthew 21:14–16).

Jesus Returns to Bethany for the Night

TUESDAY

Tuesday morning the disciples see the withered fig tree Christ has cursed and when they ask about it, the fig tree was a symbol of Israel's Spiritual Barrenness, He responds by teaching them about Faith and Prayer. I think this is very interesting here. They see the sickness and He teaches them the cure or balm against the sickness.

Jesus's Authority is questioned at the temple.

Matthew 21: 23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

Jesus responds by teaching them parables.

The Pharisees and Sadducees attempt to trap Christ in His words.

Teaching in the Temple

*"As Jesus taught in the temple, He paused to observe people casting their offerings into the treasury. Many wealthy individuals gave large amounts, but then a poor widow came and placed in two small coins—everything she had. Seeing this, Jesus called His disciples and said, 'This poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury' (Mark 12:43). Though her offering was small in the eyes of the world, it was great in the eyes of the Lord because she gave all she had. This moment reminds us that the Savior values the **heart** behind our sacrifices, not just their size."*

"You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness—they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows the full extent what temptation means." - from Neil A. Anderson, The Divine gift of Forgiveness.

Christ pronounces Woes on them.

Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and His second coming.

He teaches more parables.

The Sanhedrin plot to Kill Jesus

Jesus probably returns to Bethany for the night

WEDNESDAY

Most people when they plan their hypothetical last week add lots of time with family and friends. Jesus did that too.

Scholars think He spent the day in Bethany

Judas Iscariot goes to the chief priests and agrees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver

Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Wednesday)

A woman (identified as Mary, sister of Martha, in John 12:3) anoints Jesus with costly ointment. Judas criticizes this as a waste, but Jesus defends her, saying:

“She hath wrought a good work on me... she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.” (Mark 14:6–8)

This act of love and devotion foreshadows His burial and contrasts with Judas’ betrayal.

THURSDAY

Jesus sends Peter and John to Prepare the Passover Meal

Evening: the last supper begins.