

YEAR EIGHT

TOPIC: THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

Approaching Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples to go to a village near Bethphage and Bethany and untie and bring to Him a young ass which had not been ridden upon before and if any one challenge them, they should say 'The Lord needs it' The disciple went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the ass and He rode on it. A section of the crowd spread their garment on the road while others cut palm fronds and leafy branches and spread them on the road. As He rode the air was filled with shouts of joy from the multitude saying "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". The Pharisees in the multitude said to Him that He should stop his disciples from making noise. He answered, 'I tell you if these were silent, the very stones would cry out'.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. Jesus riding an ass showed Him as a prince of peace.
2. His decision to use a young ass on which nobody had ridden signified the sacredness of His mission.
3. The word 'Hosanna' means save Lord.
4. Christians presently mark this event on palm Sunday.

TOPIC: THE LAST SUPPER

When the feast of unleavened bread (Passover) approached, the chief priest and the scribes planned to put Jesus to death.

The disciples of Jesus came to Him and asked Him where to prepare for the Passover. Jesus instructed them to go to the house of a certain man and prepare the table. The two disciples (Peter and John) went and prepare for the Passover. As they ate Jesus said “Truly I say to you one of you will betray me” the disciples were sorrowful they began to ask one another ‘is it I Lord’ Jesus said that the betrayer was among the disciples there. He gave a piece of bread to Judas as a sign.

Jesus took the bread and blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying “take and eat this is my body” He took the cup of wine blessed it and served it, He said “Drink of it all of you for this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. The bread represents the body of Jesus, while the wine represents His blood

TOPIC: THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS.

Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olives to pray after the last supper. There He told His disciples that they should watch and pray. Jesus said to them *“this very night all of you will run away and leave me for the scripture says ‘God will kill the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’....”*

Peter responded that he will stand with Jesus till death. Jesus told him that before the cock crew Peter will deny Jesus three times. Jesus then went into the garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James and John. Jesus prayed “Father, if it is possible let this cup pass over me. Nevertheless, let it not be as I will but as you will” after praying, Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping, He woke them and said to Peter watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. After praying the third you time he found them sleeping and told them that His betrayer was around.

HIS ARREST

As Jesus spoke to the disciples, Judas Iscariot came with a crowd; some in the crowd had swords and clubs. Judas, the betrayer had told them that whoever he kissed was the man. Judas kissed Jesus and the soldiers arrested Jesus.

Peter used his sword to cut off the ear of the high priest's servant named Malchus. Jesus restored the ear and warned Peter to return the sword into the sheath.

After Jesus was arrested, they led Him to Caiaphas, the high priest. Peter followed Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. The bystanders came to Peter and accused him of knowing Jesus. He denied that he did not know Jesus. When Peter denied Jesus the third time, a cock crew and Peter remembered what Jesus told him, he went out and wept bitterly.

THE TRIAL OF JESUS

There are two different trial of Jesus.

1. CHRIST BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST (Matt. 26:36-75)

The chief Priest and the whole council sought false testimonies against Jesus in order to put him to death. Two people came forward and said that they heard Jesus say He would destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. The chief priest persuaded Jesus to make a reply, but Jesus did not reply. Again the Chief priest asked Jesus if he was the son of God to which Jesus answered "you have said so". This was all the high priest needed to nail Jesus as this was a blasphemy punishable by

death under Jewish law. The people agreed that Jesus deserve to die. They spat in his face, struck him and slapped him.

The chief priest and they council had no authority to carry out capital punishment, they referred Jesus to the Roman governor in the morning for approval.

2. CHRIST BEFORE PILATE (Matt 27:11-31)

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the king of the Jews, according to the allegation brought against Him. Jesus replied that Pilate had said so. Pilate, knowing that Jesus was accused out of envy, tried to set him free. At the feast of Passover celebrations, it was the custom of the governor to release a prisoner whom the people wanted. There was a criminal called Barabbas. Pilate asked them between Jesus and Barabbas whom should he released for them. They shouted that he should release Barabbas and crucify Jesus.

Jesus was led Roman soldiers to a place where He was clothed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns was put on His head. They saluted Him, mocking Him as the 'king of the Jews'. They then led Jesus away to be crucified.

TOPIC: THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS CHRIST

SUB-TOPIC: THE CRUCIFIXION

After Jesus had been condemned to death, the soldiers led him away to the place of crucifixion called in Hebrew, Golgotha meaning place of the skull. Jesus was unable to carry his cross because he was exhausted. The soldiers asked Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.

When they reached Golgotha, Jesus was thirsty, they offered him wine mixed with gall which Jesus refused to drink. At Golgotha, they crucified Jesus along with two robbers, one on his right hand and the other on the left. They shared His garment among themselves by casting lots. Over His head was a notice which read *"This is Jesus, the king of the Jews"*.

The robber by the left hand of Jesus joined the crowd in mocking Jesus but the other robber challenged his partner and caution him because Jesus Christ did not commit any sin while they were punished for their sins. He requested that Jesus should remember him in His kingdom. Jesus said to him, *"Today, you will be with me in paradise"*.

THE DEATH OF JESUS

At about the sixth hour, darkness covered the land until the ninth hour (12 noon to 3pm) Jesus cried with a loud voice "Eli

Eli lama Sabachthani". Meaning 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?'.

There was a great earthquake as well as the tearing of the temple curtain. Those who were present at His crucifixion were His mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Mary-the mother of James and Salome.

THE WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

1. Eli, Eli, lama Sabachthani. (Matthew 27:46)
2. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.
(Luke 23:34)
3. Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
(Luke23:43)
4. Father into thy hands I commit my spirit. (Luke 23:46)
5. Mother, behold thy son. Son, behold thy mother. (John 19:26)
6. I thirst. (John 19:28)
7. It is finished. (John)

THE BURIAL OF JESUS CHRIST

There was a rich man named Joseph from Arimathea who had also become a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. He took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen and laid it in his own new tomb.

He rolled a great stone at the entrance of the tomb and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there.

TOPIC: THE RESURRECTION AND APPEARANCE OF CHRIST

Resurrection is the act of a dead person coming back to life.

Among the people who witnessed the death and burial of Jesus Christ were Mary the mother of Christ, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome.

On the first day of the week, three days after the death and burial of Christ, these women went to the tomb of Christ early in the morning to anoint the body of Christ with spices. As they went, they wondered about how to roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb. When they got there, they were surprise to see that the stone had been rolled away.

As they entered the tomb, they saw an angel of the Lord dressed in white. They were surprised. The angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. but go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him as He told you”*.

The women left, trembling and astonished. They told the disciples. Peter and John also went to the tomb and saw the

linen burial clothes which had been around Jesus' head and body.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. His resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity.
2. It gives Christians the hope of life after death.

THE APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST

After Jesus' resurrection, He made several appearances for a period of forty days before His ascension into heaven.

The details of His appearance were as follows:

1. Jesus appeared to one of the women who visited the tomb. He spoke with Mary Magdalene and told her not to be afraid but tell His brethren to meet Him in Galilee.
2. Jesus appeared to two of His disciples one named Cleopas, on their way to Emmaus. They talked to Him without it was Jesus when they got to Emmaus. Jesus blessed and broke bread as they were about to eat and they knew Him. Jesus disappeared immediately.

3. Jesus also appeared in the midst of His disciples when those two disciples were telling others about their encounter with the risen Christ.
4. Jesus appeared to Simon Peter and the rest of the disciples in Jerusalem where He ate a piece of broiled fish before them.
5. The risen Jesus Christ appeared to Thomas.