

# Easter at CityBridge

EASTER READING PLAN

READ THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO EASTER

# GOOD NEWS

## MONDAY, MARCH 11: ISRAEL CELEBRATES PALM SUNDAY

Jesus enters Jerusalem amidst cheers and praises, fulfilling prophecy.

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-11
- Luke 19:28-44
- John 12:12-19

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the humility of Jesus in riding a donkey contrast with the expectations of a king?
2. Why do you think the crowds went from praising Jesus to calling for His crucifixion within a week?
3. In what ways can we offer genuine praise and surrender to Jesus in our lives today?

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12: JESUS CLEANSSES OF THE TEMPLE

Jesus cleanses the temple, driving out those who were buying and selling.

- Matthew 21:12-17
- Mark 11:15-19
- Luke 19:45-48

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus was so angered by the activities in the temple?
2. How does Jesus' actions in the temple challenge our understanding of reverence and worship?
3. What "tables" in our lives need cleansing to make way for true worship?

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13: JESUS' AUTHORITY QUESTIONED

Religious leaders question Jesus' authority, leading to parables and challenges.

- Matthew 21:23-27
- Mark 11:27-33
- Luke 20:1-8

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Jesus' response to the religious leaders teach us about wisdom and authority?
2. How do we sometimes challenge Jesus' authority in our own lives?
3. In what ways can we acknowledge Jesus' authority and sovereignty more fully?



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## **THURSDAY, MARCH 14: THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS**

Jesus tells the parable of the wicked tenants, revealing the consequences of rejecting God's messengers.

- Matthew 21:33-46
- Mark 12:1-12
- Luke 20:9-19

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the parable of the tenants reflect the relationship between God and humanity throughout history?
2. What are the "fruits" God expects from us as tenants of His creation?
3. How can we ensure that we are faithful stewards of God's blessings and responsibilities?

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 15: PAYING TAXES TO CAESAR**

Jesus responds to a question about paying taxes, emphasizing the importance of both earthly and heavenly obligations.

- Matthew 22:15-22
- Mark 12:13-17
- Luke 20:20-26

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does Jesus' response about paying taxes teach us about our responsibilities as citizens and as followers of Christ?
2. How do we balance our earthly duties with our allegiance to God?
3. In what ways can we "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" in our lives today?

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 16: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**

Jesus summarizes the greatest commandments—love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

- Matthew 22:34-40
- Mark 12:28-34

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How does loving God and loving others encapsulate the essence of the Christian faith?
2. In what ways do we sometimes struggle to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves?
3. What practical steps can we take to grow in love for God and others?

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 17: WOES TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES**

Jesus condemns the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

- Matthew 23:1-39

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What are some examples of hypocrisy that Jesus condemns among the religious leaders?
2. How can we guard against hypocrisy in our own lives and communities?
3. In what ways can we strive for authentic faith and righteousness instead of outward appearances?



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## **MONDAY, MARCH 18: WIDOW'S OFFERING AND THE SIGNS OF THE END TIMES**

Jesus commends the widow's sacrificial offering and discusses the signs of the end times.

- Mark 12:41-44
- Luke 21:1-38

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What lessons can we learn from the widow's offering about sacrificial giving and trust in God?
2. How do the signs of the end times challenge us to live with a sense of urgency and preparedness?
3. In what ways can we invest our resources and energies in God's kingdom, following the example of the widow?

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 19: THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS**

The religious leaders plot to kill Jesus as Passover approaches.

- Matthew 26:1-5
- Mark 14:1-2
- Luke 22:1-2

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why do you think the religious leaders were so threatened by Jesus' teachings and actions?
2. How does the plot to kill Jesus reveal the depth of human sinfulness and resistance to God?
3. In what ways do we sometimes resist God's work in our lives and in the world?

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20: JESUS' ANOINTING AT BETHANY**

Jesus is anointed by Mary at Bethany, preparing Him for burial.

- Matthew 26:6-13
- Mark 14:3-9
- John 12:1-11

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What significance do you see in Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus?
2. How does Jesus' response to Mary's anointing challenge our understanding of devotion and sacrifice?
3. In what ways can we offer our most valuable possessions and resources in devotion to Jesus?

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 21: JUDAS AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS**

Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver.

- Matthew 26:14-16
- Mark 14:10-11
- Luke 22:3-6

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why do you think Judas chose to betray Jesus, and what motivations might have been behind his decision?
2. How does Judas' betrayal prompt us to examine our own loyalty and commitment to Jesus?
3. In what ways do we sometimes betray Jesus through our words, actions, or attitudes?



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## FRIDAY, MARCH 22: PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER

Jesus instructs His disciples to prepare for the Passover meal.

- Matthew 26:17-19
- Mark 14:12-16
- Luke 22:7-13

Reflection Questions:

1. What significance does the Passover meal hold for Jesus and His disciples?
2. How does the Passover meal foreshadow Jesus' sacrificial death and the new covenant?
3. In what ways can we celebrate the spiritual freedom and redemption we have through Jesus, our Passover Lamb?

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23: THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples, instituting the Lord's Supper and washing their feet.

- Matthew 26:20-30
- Mark 14:17-26
- Luke 22:14-30
- John 13:1-30

Reflection Questions:

1. What significance do you see in Jesus' act of washing His disciples' feet?
2. How does the Last Supper deepen our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and His new covenant with us?
3. In what ways can we practice humility and servanthood in our relationships with others?

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24: JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL

Jesus predicts Peter's denial and the disciples' scattering.

- Matthew 26:31-35
- Mark 14:27-31
- Luke 22:31-38
- John 13:31-38

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Peter and the disciples struggled to remain faithful to Jesus during His time of trial?
2. How does Jesus' prediction of Peter's denial demonstrate His understanding of human weakness and His unwavering love?
3. In what ways do we sometimes deny or betray Jesus in our own lives, and how can we find forgiveness and restoration?

## MONDAY, MARCH 25: AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Jesus agonizes in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, surrendering to the Father's will.

- Matthew 26:36-46
- Mark 14:32-42
- Luke 22:39-46

Reflection Questions:

1. What emotions and struggles do you think Jesus experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane?
2. How does Jesus' prayer in the garden model for us surrender and submission to God's will, even in the face of suffering?
3. In what ways can we trust God's will and find strength in prayer during our times of struggle and uncertainty?



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## **TUESDAY, MARCH 26: THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS**

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, leading to His arrest and abandonment by His disciples.

- Matthew 26:47-56
- Mark 14:43-52
- Luke 22:47-53
- John 18:1-12

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How do you think Jesus felt when Judas betrayed Him with a kiss, and His disciples abandoned Him?
2. How does Jesus' response to His arrest reveal His commitment to fulfilling God's redemptive plan?
3. In what ways do we sometimes betray or abandon Jesus in our own lives, and how can we remain faithful to Him?

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27: JESUS BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST**

Jesus is brought before the high priest and faces false accusations and mockery.

- Matthew 26:57-68
- Mark 14:53-65
- Luke 22:54, 63-71
- John 18:13-24

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How does Jesus' demeanor and responses during His trial before the high priest reveal His innocence and authority?
2. What do you think Jesus' silence in the face of false accusations teaches us about humility and trust in God's justice?
3. In what ways can we stand firm in our faith and integrity, even in the face of opposition and injustice?

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 28: PETER DENIES JESUS**

Peter denies Jesus three times as predicted by Jesus.

- Matthew 26:69-75
- Mark 14:66-72
- Luke 22:55-62
- John 18:15-18, 25-27

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why do you think Peter denied Jesus, despite his earlier declarations of loyalty?
2. How does Peter's denial prompt us to examine our own faithfulness and courage in difficult situations?
3. In what ways can we find forgiveness and restoration in Jesus, even after failing Him like Peter did?

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 29: JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

Jesus is brought before Pilate, who finds no guilt in Him but yields to the crowd's demands for crucifixion.

- Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26
- Mark 15:1-15
- Luke 23:1-25
- John 18:28-19:16

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How does Pilate's handling of Jesus' trial reveal the pressures of political expediency and the cowardice of human leadership?
2. What does Jesus' silence in the face of Pilate's questions teach us about His confidence in His identity and mission?
3. In what ways can we resist the pressures of the world and stand for truth and justice, even when it's unpopular?



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## **SATURDAY, MARCH 30: THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS**

Jesus is crucified, suffers, and dies on the cross for the sins of humanity.

- Matthew 27:27-56
- Mark 15:16-41
- Luke 23:26-49
- John 19:17-37

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the crucifixion of Jesus demonstrate the depth of God's love and the extent of human sinfulness?
2. What significance do you see in the various events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion, such as the darkness and the tearing of the temple curtain?
3. In what ways does Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross offer hope and redemption to all who believe?

## **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31: JESUS' RESURRECTION, EMPTY TOMB, AND APPEARANCES**

Jesus rises from the dead, conquering sin and death, and appears to His disciples.

- Matthew 28:1-20
- Mark 16:1-20
- Luke 24:1-53
- John 20:1-21:25

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What emotions and reactions do you think the disciples experienced upon discovering the empty tomb and encountering the risen Jesus?
2. How does Jesus' resurrection transform our understanding of life, death, and eternity?
3. In what ways does the reality of Jesus' resurrection impact our daily lives and our hope for the future?