

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Arrival in Bethany

Last time...the prophetic Parable of the Pounds – disciples' faithfulness with kingdom riches
Faithful, wise, and rewarded servants and unfaithful, foolish, and stripped servants

Is 12

v1 forgiven sinner, child of wrath (Eph 2:1-3)...God's grace
v2-3 saved from wrath and death by the grace thru faith (Eph 2:8-9, Hab 2:4)
v4-6 put the Lord's pound/riches to work...make Him known!!!

Mark 9:41 **For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward**

This time...Jesus arrives in Bethany and the stage is set for the Final Week
We will be in John 11 and John 12

John 11

v55 passover was nigh:

Timestamp:

- Springtime in Judea
- Passover is near...one of 3 compulsory feasts (Deut 16)

Therefore, Jerusaelm is swarming with Jews – 2-3 million
Many of them arriving early to purify themselves in order to participate in the feast

Num 19:9-13

v56-57 sought they for Jesus:

In Jericho, Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus

Now, in Jerusaelm, days before Passover, everyone is looking for Jesus!

- The people
 - expecting a showdown between Jesus and their oppressors
 - the Pharisees and Sadducees
 - the Roman Empire
 - expecting Jesus to restore the kingdom of Israel
- the chief priests (2 vs 1) and the Pharisees
 - to arrest Him
 - to execute Him

All the people in the Temple complex (very heart of Jewish society) are talking about Jesus, debating whether or not He would show Himself in this place at this time

Even though this is a “must go” feast, would Jesus be a no-show?
On the contrary – He “wouldn’t miss it for the world” (John 3:16)

John 4:24...He is faithful to do ALL the Father’s will
The time to fulfill Gen 22, Ps 22, Dan 9:26, Is 53 is at hand

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God

He knows and agrees with the Plan of Redemption,
He sees the glory beyond the suffering

The chief priests and Pharisees, wicked hypocrites, rule in the “house of God”
With several million people in town...crowds everywhere that anybody could get “lost” in...they issue a decree (APB) to all their Jewish subjects:

Keep all eyes open for Jesus
Immediately report His whereabouts to us

John 12

v1 six days before...Bethany...Lazarus...raised from the dead:
A more precise timestamp – 6 days before Passover

On the way to Jerusalem from Jericho, Jesus stops in Bethany

- on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives
- before crest the mount to look down into Jerusalem and at the Temple
- hometown of MM&L
- where Jesus recently went to raise Lazarus from the dead
(came from Perea, returned to Perea)
 - evidence of Jesus’ Divine power – the power over death
 - greater works He foretold the Pharisees several years earlier

(John 5:1, 16-20)

Now, let’s slide down to v9
Chronologically, v2-8 happen later

v9 Much people...knew that He was there...might see Lazarus also:
Everybody in Jerusalem is looking for Jesus
Was Jesus hiding?
No, never.
Apart from the teaching Jesus gave to only the 12, He did what He did and
said what He said publically

“Much” people knew where Jesus was – in Bethany, at the home of His
beloved friends

Questions:

Did the wicked hypocrites (chief priests and Pharisees) know this also?

Yes, they knew His whereabouts at all times

(Jesus is not in hiding, ever)

Did anyone in Bethany “rat on” Jesus?

Doesn’t seem like it since He was not arrested

What did the “much”, the thrill-seekers, lookie-loos, and curious cats, do?

Crested the Mount of Olives to go to Bethany

To see the Attractions

1. Jesus
2. Lazarus

v10-11 chief priests consulted...by reason:

Did the wicked hypocrites know where Jesus was?

Yes

Their “problem” with Jesus...people believing He is the Messiah King...
became unbearably worse after Jesus’ recent visit to Bethany
when He raised Lazarus from the dead

Jesus’ Divine power was creating an intolerable situation for them!

Therefore, they took evil counsel among themselves and resolved that not only
must Jesus die (a decision made long ago...John 5), so must Lazarus!

Lazarus has also become a very damaging character witness and irrefutable
evidence of Jesus and His claims.

So now he must also be destroyed.

The chief priests do not want to see Lazarus raised from the dead...
they want him dead!

Rather than causing them to re-think Who Jesus is and their murderous plot
against Him, the raising of Lazarus has fueled an urgency in their hearts to
carry it out!

The wicked hypocrites plot to also take Lazarus' life as well
Did the chief priests and Pharisees ever actually kill Lazarus?
Scripture is silent...but I doubt it
They did kill Jesus, finally (in their own minds, but John 10:17-18)
But then 3 days later...
And the "kill the witness and bury the evidence" plan went off the rails...
1 Cor 15:6 and Acts 2 *ff*

The chief priests and Pharisees were losing their grip/power...over the people
If a rebellion against Rome broke out, the iron fist of Rome would unmercifully
smash them (John 11:49-50)
They stand to lose their power and lifestyles and, worst case, their lives
So they will say and do anything and everything to keep/get power

They MUST put an end to this Man from Nazareth who is threatening to "ruin"
everything
Jesus of Nazareth is Public Enemy #1
The raising of Lazarus from the dead sealed the deal, so Lazarus must die too

The chief priests and the Pharisees want to bury

- their Messiah, the King of Israel threatening their way of life and power/influence
- the most glaring evidence of the Messiah...Lazarus

Evil

- knows no bounds...do not ever be surprised by the depths to which wicked men will sink
- is always urgent and loud...why is righteousness neither?

So here we are, in the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ: the Final Week
The scene is Jerusalem, a seething pot of intrigue and evil and self-righteous deception
This will be a Passover unlike any other Passover EVER
In fact, it will be the very fulfillment of the appointment/shadow of the 1st Passover

Jesus is now here for His Appointment set before the foundation of the world, the Lamb of God
and the Father's sin sacrifice...the very Substance of the shadow
Ex 12:1-14

In the shadow, the High Priest on behalf of the nation will offer a

- perfect...without spot or blemish (was thoroughly inspected)
- young
- male

lamb

- the blood of which was the sign for the angel of death to pass over them
- to deliver God's flock from the world

The Shadow observed since the exodus from Egypt led by Moses is about to be fulfilled.
The Substance that is now here for His Divine Appointment

He will be closely, severely “inspected” for flaws and faults and blemishes;
there will be none!

1 Peter 1:18-21

The Players in this, the most tragic and profound event in the history of the world:

1. Jesus

- moving with unwavering determination to do the will of His Father
- will not use His Divine power to defeat His earthly enemies, but will use His Divine power to defeat mankind’s enemies
 - death
 - devil
- willing to give the greatest sacrifice and love to His earthly enemies (sinners, Eph 2:1-3 and Matt 5:43-45)
- show unfathomable courage to face death, a horrific death...having the power to avoid it (Matt 26:53-54) but refusing to use it; courage to die horrifically for...me, you, and all of Adam’s descendents

2. The 12

- for over 3 years have seen and heard “John 21:25”, yet right now are
- confused...hopeful but despairing
- unwilling to accept Jesus’ 4-times-told end of this ministry
- not yet spiritually discerning
- not yet born-again of the Spirit of God

3. The Jewish people in Jerusalem for Passover

- stoked by the testimony of the multitude accompanying Jesus from Jericho
 - blind Bartimaeus’ (now in Jerusalem himself)
 - cry – Son of David (Messiah. King), have mercy on me
 - healing by Jesus
 - Jesus’ end to the Parable of the Pounds (Luke 19:27)
- very excited about the possibility of the Messiah (theirs, a political King), the Son of David, restoring the kingdom of David to Israel

4. Rome

- very concerned about the potentially explosive mixture of such great excitement and great tension
- political careers and lives are at stake if the peace is not kept

5. The chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees

- all their manipulations and “secret” attempts to kill Jesus have failed
- but now the situation is desperate and their evil counsel to kill Jesus “goes public” (John 11:57)
- nothing will be “done in a corner” but before all to see
Nothing like the JFK assassination and the Warren Commission’s work to learn/hide the truth
- wicked hypocrites will take evil counsel and say/do ANYTHING to get and keep power over people

There is nothing new under the sun

Is 3:12 O my people, they which lead thee cause *thee* to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

1962 and 1963 US Supreme Court rulings corrupting the Founding Father’s principle of “separation of Church and State” to ban prayer and the Bible from public schools
ie. radically changing the education of the next generation
(to God: “Get out of our society!”)

Those decisions have borne wild fruit in our teetering society
The ensuing chaos (vs order) and shame was clearly seen in...
the confirmation process of a Supreme Court nominee (ironic)

USA is on the brink of not being a nation based on due process and the rule of law but of imploding by the rule of false accusation and slander and blind ideological passion
(because Truth was rejected and is dying or dead in the street)

People of bad character in judgment of a person of good character

Judge with an impeccable record being lectured about the truth by a habitual liar/politician (Vietnam service record)

Liberals in all out war against Conservatives with NO regard for truth or dignity (theirs or anyone else’s)

Kavanaugh is NOT to be likened to Jesus or Lazarus (is a Jesuit!)

But Liberals are wicked hypocrites taking evil counsel to assassinate (character) an opponent with vicious false accusations, having no evidence to support them
They will say and do ANYTHING to destroy him to get power

Heart of the problem and the root of their fear:
right to murder innocent children in their mother's wombs
(Roe v Wade in 1973)

In both instances...

- Kingdom of Judea then
- USA today

the perceived problem by the undiscerning was/is political

But the problem is NOT political,
the problem is

- Spiritual – We will not have this Man to reign over us
- philosophical/worldview – humanism

Now, the time is 6 days before the Passover

We are in The Final Week

1/3 of the 4 Gospels (chapters and verses) records the events of the Final Week

The pace of fulfillment of Messianic Scripture of Jesus' 1st Coming is going to
"hockey-stick" in the Final Week

Note: the pace of fulfillment of Messianic Scripture for Jesus' 2nd Coming will also
"hockey-stick" in the Final/70th Week

But the timing of the end is the Father's...not Satan's and not wicked man's

Overview

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Comment</u> |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | Triumphal Entry Jesus weeps over Jerusalem Jesus goes to “inspect” the Temple | only time Jesus allowed His followers to “treat Him like a King” He expected them to know this very day returns to Bethany |
| 2 | Jesus curses the fig-tree Jesus cleanses the Temple Jesus heals the blind and lame in Temple Some Greeks want to see Jesus | a type of Israel 2 nd time (John 2), turned into den of thieves Is 35:4-6 He does not see them – wrong motive |
| 3 & 4 | Pharisees question Jesus’ authority Parable of the Two Sons Parable of the Wicked Husbandman Parable of the King’s Son Trick questions Jesus’ question stumps the tricksters Woes of Jesus against the Pharisees The widow’s mite Jesus teaches about spiritual blindness Olivet Discourse Parable of the Ten Virgins Parable of the Ten Talents Parable of Sheep and Goats Mary anoints Jesus Pharisees and Judas plot to betray Jesus | Jesus shuts them down say vs do – who did will of father? destroyed by the Householder marriage of Son; many called few chosen Pharisees, then Sadducees, then scribes 8 Woes for hypocrites and blind guides justification is an issue of the heart man-pleasers vs God-pleasers what happens before Jesus returns to earth (2 nd Coming) wise with oil, foolish without oil left out Parable of Pounds-ish with different ending judgment of the nations Judas self-righteously objects |
| 5 | The Passover Meal Jesus washes the disciple’s feet The betrayer identified, sent away The Lord’s Supper Jesus’ Last Words to His disciples (11) in the Upper Room The Lord’s Prayer Gethsemane Betrayal Arrest of Jesus Jesus “trial” before the High Priest Peter’s foretold denial | including Judas’ The camp is cleansed Bread and Wine of New Testament promise of the Holy Spirit, Parable of True Vine agony, temptation, Not My will but Your will (faith) by a “Friend” with a kiss “I AM” and all fell back to the ground, disciples flee before dawn, illegal severely humbled |

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Comment</u> |
|------------|---|--|
| 6 | Jesus' "trial" before the Sanhedrin Jesus' "trial" before Pilate Jesus shuttled over to Herod Antipas Jesus returned to Pilate and sentenced Jesus mocked by Roman soldiers Judas commits suicide Jesus is crucified Suffering on the Cross Darkness prevails Jesus commends His Spirit and lays down His life Reactions to His death Jesus is buried | chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees because from Galilee the Jews play hard ball, get the conviction they want crown of thorns etc Jews mock, thief confesses, Mary given to John, Father turns away "It is finished!" Veil rent from top to bottom, centurion confesses, graves opened |

The Final Week – the stage is now set for

- the greatest injustice – the suffering and death of the Perfect and Innocent
- the greatest grace – the suffering and death of the Innocent for all the guilty
- the greatest display of the heart of man (wicked hypocrisy and evil counsel)
- the greatest display of the heart of God – no greater love
- the greatest victory – over death (3 days and 3 nights later)

Let not any of these things escape our study and meditation

- The darkness in the world
- The enormity of God's Plan and love
- The centrality of human history