

Approximately 40 minutes Topical



A Christian Sermon on Passion Week **Title: "The King Who Came to Die"**

Opening Prayer:

Father, we come before You in the name of Jesus, and we thank You for Your holy Word. We thank You for the beauty, power, and truth of Passion Week. Lord, open our hearts today. Help us not to merely learn facts, but to see Jesus more clearly. For the new believer, bring understanding. For the mature believer, bring fresh wonder. Let Your Spirit make these truths alive in us. And Lord, if anyone hearing this does not yet know Christ, please draw them to salvation today. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

Quick Historical Setting:

Passion Week is the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry before the cross and resurrection. It begins with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and moves through the upper room, Gethsemane, the trials, the crucifixion, and finally the empty tomb. Jerusalem was overflowing during Passover. Jews from many regions had come to remember how God delivered Israel from Egypt through the blood of the lamb.

That is important, because during that same week, Jesus entered Jerusalem not merely as a teacher or miracle worker, but as the true Passover Lamb. This was not random history. This was divine timing. God was painting the whole picture. The Lamb of God had come to take away the sin of the world.

And when we read Passion Week through all four Gospels....**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**....we do not get contradictions. We get a fuller portrait. **Each Gospel writer, led by the Holy Spirit**, shows us another angle of the same glorious Savior.

1. The King Enters Jerusalem:

The week opens with what we call the “**Triumphal Entry**”. **Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12** all record this great moment. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy. He was not riding a war horse. He came in humility, yet in unmistakable authority.

The crowds cried out words like, “**Hosanna!**” and “**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**” They spread cloaks and palm branches before Him. John’s Gospel especially highlights the crowd with palm branches... **John 12:13**(NIV) ***¹³ They took palm***

branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Luke tells us that if the people were silent, the stones would cry out.

Luke 19:40(NIV) ⁴⁰ **“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”**

👉 What a scene. The King had come. But many in the crowd misunderstood what kind of King He was. They wanted deliverance from Rome, 👉 but Jesus came first to deliver from sin. They wanted political rescue, 👉 but He came for eternal rescue.

- That still happens today. Many people want Jesus to fix their

circumstances, 🖐️ but do not want Him to rule their hearts.

- They want a helpful Savior, 🖐️ but not a reigning Lord.

Yet Passion Week reminds us that Jesus did not come just to improve life. 🖐️ He came to save us from judgment and reconcile us to God.

And Luke's Gospel gives us one of the most tender moments: **Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Luke 19:41 (NIV) ⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it**

In the middle of praise, He is grieving.
Why?

- Because He saw their blindness.
- He saw the coming judgment.
- He saw that many would reject the very One they needed most.

What love is this? The King comes, and He weeps over the city that will reject Him.

2. The King Cleanses the Temple:

As the week moves forward, Jesus enters the temple and cleanses it. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all emphasize this act of righteous authority, and John had recorded a temple cleansing earlier in His ministry, showing His consistent zeal for His Father's house.

Jesus overturned tables and declared, **Matthew 21:13(NIV) ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.**


He was not out of control. He was acting with holy authority. This was not sinful anger, but righteous judgment.


- The temple had become corrupted. The place meant for worship had become a place of corruption. Religion

without repentance had filled the courts. Outward activity was there, but inward devotion was missing.

That is a warning for us. God is not impressed with religious performance.

- He wants truth in the inward parts.
- He wants worship that is real.
- He wants hearts surrendered to Him.

 Passion Week forces us to ask: **Is Jesus welcome to cleanse the temple of our lives?**

- We want Jesus as Savior, but are we willing to let Him cleanse our lives?
- We rejoice in His grace, but do we also accept His correction?
-  The same Jesus who entered Jerusalem in humility also comes with power to purify and make us right.

3. The King Teaches with Final Urgency:

Throughout this week, Jesus teaches with tremendous urgency. Matthew records the **Olivet Discourse** in chapters 24 and 25. Mark 13 and Luke 21 also give us that prophetic teaching. John gives us precious upper-room teaching in chapters 13 through 17.

- During this final week, Jesus speaks about judgment, readiness, hypocrisy, His return, love, the Holy Spirit, abiding in Him, and the Father's plan.
- He exposes the hypocrisy of the religious leaders.
- He warns about empty religion.
- He tells His disciples to watch and be ready.
- He comforts them with promises of the Helper to come.

John 13 shows Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

👉 What a picture. The One with all authority stoops low in service. **The King becomes the servant.** Then He says they should do likewise.

👉 This is the heart of Christ.

- Greatness in the kingdom is not pride.
- 👉 It is humility.
- It is not self-promotion.
- 👉 It is surrender.

Mature believers need that reminder. New believers need to see it clearly. The Christian life is not about being impressive. 👉 It is about being like Jesus.

Then Jesus institutes the **Lord's Supper**. In **Matthew 26**, **Mark 14**, and **Luke 22**, He takes bread and the cup and gives them deep meaning.

➤ The bread speaks of His body.

- The cup speaks of His blood of the covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Passion Week tells us plainly that the cross was **not an accident**. Jesus knew exactly where He was going. He interpreted His own death before it happened.

👉 He was laying down His life willingly.

4. The King Enters Gethsemane:

After the upper room, Jesus goes to Gethsemane. Matthew, Mark, and Luke give us vivid detail, and John shows the arrest with stunning majesty. In the garden we see the agony of the Savior. Jesus is not afraid of nails of the cross.

👉 He is facing the cup of God's wrath against sin.

He prays, **Mark 14:36** (NIV)

"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me."

Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Luke tells us His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. And while Jesus agonizes in prayer, the disciples sleep.

Luke 22:44-46(NIV) ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. ⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Here we see both the weakness of man and the obedience of Christ.

- Adam failed in a garden.
- 🙌 Jesus submitted in a garden.
- The first Adam brought ruin.
- 🙌 The last Adam (Jesus) moved steadily toward redemption.

And then the arrest comes. Judas arrives. The kiss of betrayal lands. In John's Gospel, when they come looking for Jesus and He says, **"I am he,"** they draw back and fall to the ground.

John 18:4-6(NIV)

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)* ***6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.**

👉 Even in arrest, His glory flashes through. He is not a helpless victim. 👉 He is the sovereign Son giving Himself over according to the Father's plan.

5. The King Is Tried and Rejected:

The trials of Jesus are among the darkest scenes in Scripture. He is brought before the Jewish leaders, then before Pilate, then before Herod in **Luke's account**, and back again. False witnesses rise. Lies spread. Mockery increases.

Matthew shows the religious hatred. **Mark** highlights the injustice and abandonment. **Luke** shows the political maneuvering and Herod's contempt. **John** gives extended detail of Jesus before Pilate, where Jesus speaks of truth and kingdom.

Pilate asks, **“What is truth?”** ... **John 18:38 (NIV)** **“‘What is truth?’ retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, ‘I find no basis for a charge against him.’”**

👉 Imagine asking that question while the very One who is the Truth is standing right in front of you in the flesh.

Jesus is beaten, spit upon, mocked, crowned with thorns, and condemned. The crowd that once cried, **“Hosanna,”** now cries, **“Crucify him!”**

That is the human heart apart from grace.

- Unstable.
- Blind.
- Sinful.
- Capable of praising Christ one moment and rejecting Him the next.

But still Jesus moves forward.

➤ **Why?**

👉 Because love held Him there.

👉 Obedience held Him there.

👉 The plan of redemption held Him there.

6. The King Is Crucified:

Now we come to Calvary. All four Gospels bring us here. This is the center. This is the

heart of **Passion Week**. This is where justice and mercy meet.

Jesus is crucified between criminals. The sinless One dies among the guilty.

Matthew records the darkness and the cry, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** (Mt.27 Vs.46)...

Luke records, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,”**

(Lk.23 Vs.34).... and the promise to the repentant thief: **“Today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Lk.23 Vs.43).... John

records, **“It is finished.”**(Jn.19 Vs.30)...

Mark gives the raw suffering and the astonishment of the centurion.

Mark 15:37-39 (NIV) ³⁷ **With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.**

³⁸ **The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.** ³⁹ **And when the centurion, who stood there in front of**

Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

At the cross, Jesus bore our sin. He did not merely set an example of love.

- He accomplished atonement.
- He took the punishment we deserved.
- He satisfied the righteous demands of Father God.
- He became our substitute.

And when He cried, **“It is finished,”** (Jn. 19Vs.30)... that meant the debt was paid in full.

- Not partly paid.
- Not mostly paid.

👉 Fully paid.

The Greek word behind **“It is finished”** in **John 19:30** is: **Τετέλεσται**

Transliterated: **Tetelestai**

Pronounced: 🙌 **teh-TEL-es-tie**

Its meaning:

- **to finish**
- **to complete**
- **to accomplish**
- **to fulfill**
- **to bring to its goal**

So when Jesus said **“Tetelestai,”** He was declaring that His redemptive work was **fully completed**. The price for sin had been paid in full. The mission the Father gave Him had been accomplished.

The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. Access to God was opened, not by human effort, but by the **blood of Jesus Christ**.

🙌 Brothers and Sisters, this is why Passion Week matters.

- Without the cross, we are still in our sins.
 - Without the blood of Christ, religion cannot save us. Good works cannot save us. Church attendance cannot save us. Baptism cannot save us.
- 👉 **Only Jesus saves.**

7. The King Rises in Victory:

But Passion Week does not end at the tomb. Praise God, Sunday came.

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20 all testify that the tomb was **empty**. The stone was rolled away, not so Jesus could get out, but so witnesses could look in. Death had been defeated. The grave had lost. **Jesus rose bodily, truly, gloriously!**

The women come early. There is fear, wonder, and joy. Angels announce, “**He is not here; he has risen!**” John gives us the tender moment of Mary Magdalene hearing her name from the risen Lord. **Luke** gives

us the road to Emmaus. **Matthew** shows the authority of the risen Christ. **Mark** emphasizes the call to proclaim the good news.

👉 The resurrection is the Father's public declaration that the sacrifice of Christ was accepted. The cross paid the debt. The resurrection proves the victory.

For the new Christian, hear this clearly:

- Jesus is alive. Christianity is “not” based on a dead teacher but a **risen Savior**.
- For the mature Christian, never lose the wonder of that truth. We do not preach ideas only. **We preach a living Christ who conquered sin, death, and hell.**

Invitation to Be Born Again:

And now the question is this: What will you do with Jesus?

- Passion Week is not just something to admire. It demands a response. Jesus came for sinners. He went to the cross for sinners. He rose again for sinners. That means He came for you and for me.
- Maybe you know church, but you do not know Christ.
- Maybe you have religion, but not redemption.
- Maybe you have heard about Jesus for years, but you have never truly surrendered your life to Him.

👉 The good news is this: you can be forgiven today.

👉 You can be born again today.

👉 You can come to Jesus just as you are.

- Turn from your sin.
- Put your faith in Christ.

- Trust in His finished work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

The Bible says in **John 1:12**(NIV) **“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”**

If that is your desire, call on Him right where you are.

- Tell Him you are a sinner.
- Tell Him you believe He died for your sins and rose again.
- Ask Him to forgive you and save you.
 - 👉 He will not turn away the one who comes to Him in faith.

You can pray something like this from your heart:

Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner.... I cannot save myself.... I believe You died for my sins and rose again.... Please forgive me, cleanse me, and give me new life.... I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone.... Be my Savior and my Lord.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

👉 It is really that easy... God made it easy for all of us...

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the beauty and power of Passion Week. Thank You for sending Your Son, the true King, the perfect Lamb, the risen Savior. Thank You that Jesus came willingly, suffered fully, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously.

Lord, strengthen every believer listening today. Help us walk in humility, gratitude, and holy devotion. Bring us back again and again to the wonder of the cross and the empty tomb.

And Father, for anyone who is not yet saved, draw them now. Give them the grace to repent and believe. Let today be the day they are born again. Let hearts be surrendered to Jesus Christ, the King who came to die and rose again in power.

We love You, Lord, and we thank You for Your great salvation. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Have a wonderful week!

