

# Remember Christ Draw Near to the Cross



**4<sup>th</sup> Week**

March 4 to March 10, 2018

**Monday, March 5, 2018**

**John 15:1-27**

Jesus encourages his disciples on the road to Gethsemane

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday evening

After the last supper Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn and left for the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus often spent his evenings when near Jerusalem (Luke 22:39). While the location of the upper room is unknown, the distance from the wall of Jerusalem to Gethsemane is about a half mile, which gave Jesus time to teach his disciples. Jesus is reminding his disciples in his last teachings to abide in his love and obey his commandments just as Jesus has abided in the Father's love and obeyed his commandments.

1. What vine are you attached to? How do you know?
  2. What kind of fruit are you bearing?
  3. Can you accept the pruning process (v.2)?
  4. Do you abide in Christ? What steps can you take to help you obey Jesus by abiding in Him?
  5. How you can practically seek the Lord to work along with Him?
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**Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

**John 16:1-33**

Jesus encourages his disciples on the road to Gethsemane

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday evening

The hymn Jesus and his disciples sang when they left for the garden of Gethsemane pronounced that God was in complete control as they sang the last psalm of the Hallel collection. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:22-24) Now with his departure in view Jesus encourages the disciples about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. Why does the gospel elicit such violent opposition from both religious and non-religious segments of society?
2. Even through these oppositions we too share the great blessing with the apostles the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. How does this reassurance make you feel?
3. With the help of the Holy Spirit, what is the primary concern of a Christian as he/she follows Christ? (vv. 13-15)

Prayer: With the Holy Spirit as our consummate Helper, pray that we are reminded of the fact that we are freed from trying to live the Christian life under our own power. The gospel is not "do more and try harder"; rather, it is "see Jesus and surrender to the Spirit."

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

**John 17:1-26**

Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday evening

Having given himself for our sins once and for all, Jesus now prays for us without ceasing (Rom 8:34). Because the disciples were given permission to eavesdrop on this prayer, we know that Jesus thinks of us and that he is now praying for us. In this prayer Jesus 1) counts us as a love gift to him from the Father (v. 6), 2) prays for our joy to increase because we are already loved by Jesus, and 3) prays for our sanctification by the truth of the Father's words (v. 17).

1. What was the "work" the Father gave Jesus to do? How did it bring glory to the Father?
2. What is the "work" the Father has given you to do? In what ways are you bringing glory to the Father in this?
3. Why is unity between Christians so important? What is the model Jesus gives of this unity in verse 21? What effect does true Christian unity have on our witness to the world?

Prayer: Pray that our union in Christ brings a unity in Christ as he calls us to live out as characters of God's story of redemption and also as proclaimers of that story.

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**Thursday, March 8, 2018**

**Luke 22:39-46**

Jesus' sorrows in the Garden of Gethsemane

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday late evening

Never has Jesus appeared more like one of us than in his final struggle in the garden of Gethsemane. Three times over he entreates his Father: a heart-wrenching cry ends as an unconditional surrender to God. This temptation echoes that confrontation with the devil in the desert at the very start of Jesus' mission. Now, in the garden of Gethsemane, the same fight resumes and the same victory ensues: above all else commit wholeheartedly to God's keeping and blindly trust in Him alone. "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work." (John 4:34)

1. Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow as he considered the will of the Father for him to himself over for our sins once and for all. Have you considered what it means to take up the cross and follow Jesus? (Matt. 16:24-26)
2. Jesus reminds his disciples repeatedly to not enter into temptation (vv. 40, 46). How often are we tempted to find an alternative rather than following the will of the Father?

Prayer: As Jesus commanded the disciples, pray that we will not fall into temptation. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your

mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

**Friday, March 9, 2018**

**Matthew 26:47-56**

Jesus betrayed, abandoned by the disciples

Time: A.D. 30, Friday pre-dawn

Jesus has this unity of His victory on the cross and the kingdom’s coming in view implicitly when He speaks of His arrest as the fulfillment of “the Scriptures of the prophets” (vv. 54, 56). Jesus is following His Father’s plan, and men like Peter are wrong to view what is happening as something outside of God’s control. Jesus is handed over to His captors by one who should love Him. Worse still, the disciples abandon Him in this hour of need. Jesus now faces execution alone, a solitude that He will experience to its fullest and most painful extent when His Father forsakes Him on the cross (27:46).

1. When you encountered unexpected events, do you misinterpret it as it is outside of God’s plans?
2. Like Peter, have you sometimes “defended” Christ improperly?
3. Or have you, at other times, embraced the ways of the world to avoid persecution?

Prayer: Pray that we not repeat these errors as we proclaim Jesus to the world. And unlike what Jesus experience, we do not have to face the world alone for Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit

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**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**Matthew 26:57-68**

Jesus on trial

Time: A.D. 30, Friday pre-dawn

Our Lord Jesus’ trial is the greatest miscarriage of justice ever committed. Matthew makes this plain, stating that the council seeks “false testimony” (v. 59). They could care less about the truth and are probably frustrated in their inability to build a case against Him (vv. 59–60a). From Zephaniah 3:5, “The Lord within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame”; it assures us that the Lord is perfectly righteous and therefore incapable of any injustice.

Unlike the Sanhedrin in Jesus’ day, we must therefore learn to hate injustice and to do whatever we can to make sure that justice is done in our culture. For example we can refuse to give false testimony or listen to gossip, and to choose righteous leaders who will promote justice both in our churches and in our political institutions.