

First Sunday in Lent – 2024

Saturday, 2/17 at 4:00 & Sunday, 2/18 at 9:00



The Holy Week Journey

Jesus Anointed

The Triumphal Entry

Based on the Booklet, Days 1-2

Text: Mark 14:3-9; 11:1-11 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is sermon 1 of 14 as we take **The Holy Week Journey**. If we could somehow see all of time – *from creation to the return of Jesus*, then we would see how Holy Week + 1 – *from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday* is THE MOST IMPORTANT PERIOD OF TIME ([Acts 4:12](#))!

Over the next 40 days or so, we will preach our way through [the Gospel according to Mark, chapters 11-16](#). Since Holy Week began with Palm Sunday, *that is our focus today*.

As we take our journey, *we need to remember two things:*

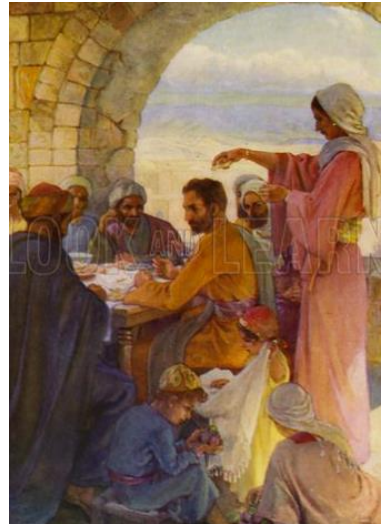
- We are stretching out Holy Week + 1 over 47 days!
- We are recognizing Jewish time keeping. For example, on **day 1**, we are focusing on an event that happened *FOR US* on Saturday evening but *FOR JEWS* on Sunday.

Day 1 (We, 2/14) – **Jesus Anointed at Bethany:** Even though this account is recorded in [Mark 14](#), *it most likely took place after sunset – at the beginning of Palm Sunday* (see [Matthew 26:6-13](#); [John 12:1-8](#)).

1. **The Setting:** Jesus had been in **Jericho** at the home of Zacchaeus. Then He traveled 15 miles to **Bethany**, *which is the location where He was anointed*. On the map, notice the locations of **Jericho**, **Bethany**, and **Jerusalem**. Jesus probably traveled on Friday, then rested on the Sabbath – *Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset*.



2. **The Anointing: 14:3** While [Jesus] was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper [attending a dinner in His honor], and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; *and she broke the vial and poured it over His head.*¹ // The woman was Mary, *the sister of Lazarus and Martha*. She expressed *heartfelt thanks to Jesus for raising her brother, but especially for the **GREAT WORK** He was about to do to remove the sin of the world!* Let us express our thanks too!



3. **The Anger:** ⁴ But some [including Judas Iscariot (John 12:4-5)] were indignantly remarking [speaking with anger] to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii [the amount a laborer would make in a **WHOLE YEAR**], and the money given to the poor.” And they were scolding her.

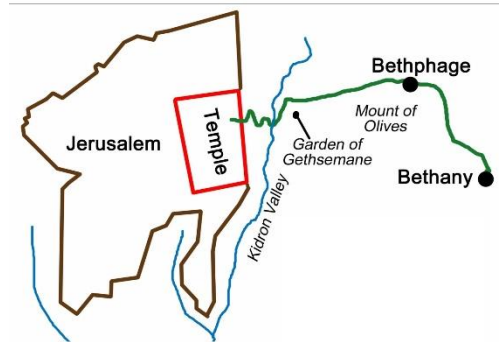
¹ <https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/1358/was-jesus-anointed-once-or-twice-on-the-feet-with-perfume>

// As we question paying \$7 million for a 30-second Super Bowl ad, *so people questioned that expensive anointing, especially Judas, the money box holder and thief (John 12:6).*

4. **The Justification:** ⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. ⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.” // We are blessed, so we should help the poor, *but we should also do radical things to honor Jesus, our Lord!*

Day 2 (Th, 2/15) – Jesus’ Triumphal Entry:

1. **The Setting: 11:1** [On Sunday morning] As [Jesus and His disciples] approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His



disciples, ² and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing,

untying the colt?" ⁶ They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission. // Jesus told His disciples to do something that could have landed them in serious trouble, nevertheless, *they did what He said!* As we read the words of Jesus, ***let us do what He said!***

- The Triumphal Entry:** ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna [*save us now*]! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; ¹⁰ Blessed *is* the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!" // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: "The people here confessed Jesus as the Son of David, as the Messiah of Israel, whose kingdom was about to be established." Some understood Jesus' mission – *to take away the sin of the world*, but many probably hoped that Jesus would conquer the Romans and set them free. Let us keep our focus on things that are ***spiritual*** and ***eternal!***
- The Conclusion:** ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem *and came into the temple*; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late. // After seeing what He did, *Jesus knew He had important things to address on Monday*. Then He and His disciples probably slept at the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha in Bethany – about 2 miles to the southeast of Jerusalem.

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, as we journey with You, *fill us with thanksgiving for all You did to take away our sins!*

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