

Blandford and Langton Home Groups  
Meeting for Week Beginning 9 March 2008  
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

## “Jesus’ Final Days (Part 1)”

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### The Overall Aim of this Study:

- ❖ To see that Jesus raised the stakes in his words and actions.
  - ❖ To see that he required everyone involved to take a decision about him.
  - ❖ To show that in the midst of this he was driven by love.
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- Welcome

What causes arguments in your household?

- Worship

Read Romans 8:35-39 and praise God for his unending love and perseverance!

- Word

It would be a help to read the “*The One Stop Bible Guide*” Pages 96-97. Jesus’ ministry is initially based in Galilee, although he travels around, including visits to Jerusalem for the major festivals. It is only in last weeks, that Jesus begins to focus on Jerusalem as the final destination and the final part of his ministry. However, this should not have come as a surprise to his disciples:

Read Matthew 16:15/16, 21.

- Why was it important that there was a recognition of who Jesus is before he could explain the true nature of his mission?
- Why did Peter react the way he did?
- How do you think we might have reacted at that moment?
- The last question is important - do we think we know better than God sometimes?

The Gospels focus on different things about what happened in Jerusalem in those last days - Matthew, Mark and Luke (the Synoptic Gospels) focus on Jesus miracles, parables and teaching to the people, whereas John focuses on Jesus’ teaching to the disciples on the night of the Last Supper. The Synoptic Gospels include:

- ❖ The entry into Jerusalem (eg Luke 19:28-38)
- ❖ Jesus cleansing the Temple (eg Mark 11:15-19)
- ❖ Jesus talking about his authority (eg Luke 20:1-8)
- ❖ The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (eg Matthew 22:1-14)
- ❖ Jesus talking about taxes (eg Matthew 21:15-22)
- ❖ Jesus denouncing the Scribes and Pharisees (eg Matthew 22:1-36)

The leader of this session will need to familiarise themselves with these passages or ask individuals to read them as necessary.

- What effect would these words and actions have upon the people?
- What about Jesus’ opponents? Jesus’ disciples?
- What is Jesus aiming to do through them?
- Is it right to actively seek confrontation? Why?

Read John 17

- V1 - How did Jesus know that the “time” had come? What did he mean by that?
- V2/3 What did Jesus understand his purpose to be?
- V2 - How “in control” was Jesus of the situation?
- V4/5 - What is Jesus’ ultimate aim in life?
- V6/7/8 - What has Jesus “revealed” about God and how has he done it?
- V9/10/11 - What does Jesus say about relationship in these verses?
- V11-19 - What is Jesus preparing them for?
- What does Jesus want for the Disciples?
- What does Jesus think the future holds for them?
- V20-26 - What does Jesus see as the important targets for the disciples?

In these verses, Jesus repeats the word “Glory” over and over again (how many times?) and shows that he is constantly aiming to glorify his Father and this is what he believes the disciples should be aiming to do. It is strange to us that this should happen in the death of Jesus as much as it does in the resurrection. There is a sense of urgency in Jesus’ voice as he speaks - that the time has come (v1).

- **Works**

As we prepare for Easter, there is a temptation to see it as something which “just happens” in the Gospel, rather than something which Jesus not only expected, but was in control of, in terms of its timing and planning. Spend a few minutes talking about how you understand the events of Easter and what God was doing for and for the world through it - and what you want to experience through it in the coming 10 days or so. Pray about these things - and maybe commit yourselves as a group to go to a particular service.

- **Next Meeting**

**Focus at Home next week**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Jesus’ Final Days (Part 2)