

Blandford and Langton Home Groups  
Meeting for Week Beginning 16 March 2008  
Focus At Home “The Bible - The Big Picture”

## “Jesus’ Final Days (Part 2)”

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### The Overall Aim of this Study:

- ❖ To see that Jesus death is the focal part of the Bible.
  - ❖ To show that Jesus fulfilled prophecies and expectations.
  - ❖ Top get excited about Easter!
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- Welcome

Are you someone who prefers “planned” holidays and days out - or do you prefer things “to just happen”?

- Worship

Read John 1:12-13, Galatians 4:4-7 and thank God for the perfect plan to make us his children.

- Word

You may find the sermon on this topic helpful.

### *A Time to Think Back ....*

Since the start of the autumn term we have been looking at the Big Picture of Salvation - and how the Easter Story is not a coincidental part of Gods plan, but is the central part of the jigsaw puzzle. But the most important central piece relies on all the other pieces in order to make sense - on it’s own it does not “connect” to the rest of the picture.

### *Some Questions ...*

- What action in Genesis 3:6-7 changed the world?
- Why is it not possible to “reverse” sin and its effects?
- What did God use to show that he did not have to put up with sin in Genesis 6:11-13?
- What is Noah’s role? What does the covering of the Ark symbolise?
- Recall some of the other prototype saviours in the Old Testament: what were their jobs and what were they preparing people for in the longer term?
- What was the job of the prophets? To look back or look forwards?
- How do you understand the two words for time: *Chronos* and *Kairos*?
- What sort of Messiah were the people expecting?
- What did Jesus’ Miracles and Teaching say about the Messiah they got?
- Why did so many not have “ears to hear”?

*Please read the other website downloads (from last term on the Passover).*

- If we accept that God had a plan and that we have “free will” to chose between right and wrong - how do we bring these two together in the Easter Story?
- Was Jesus “manipulating” or simply doing things which he knew people would react to?
- For example, was Judas a “self-fulfilling prophecy” - did he really have a choice or was he just a pawn in the story?
- Could the Easter Story have happened another way? eg Jesus betrayed by someone else?

Read Matthew 21:1-11, Zechariah 9:9

- Was this an act of provocation or a Jesus making a statement about himself? If so, what?
- What things does the verse from Zechariah 9 say about the person who would do this?
- Did Palm Sunday reinforce the people's expectations - or should they have seen something different? What did they see?
- How does this explain their turning away from Jesus at his trial?
- Why is hindsight so helpful? (!!)

After so much expectation over so many centuries, we should not be surprised at the fickle nature of the Easter crowds - and neither should we condemn them unless we can categorically say that we would have done differently. The power of the crowd is great - and even greater when they feel cheated of their "rights".

Read Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus is alone - and even the closest of his closest friends cannot stay with him at his moment of greatest stress, when the fear of what is to follow tempts him to turn his back on the task.

- In what sense is Jesus "alone and rejected"? There are many facets to this: look at it from the aspects of people, the task, and his teaching - and his trial is yet to come.
- How is this moment one of the most important in the Easter Story? What is happening?
- Was there any other way?
- If Jesus had succumbed, what would have resulted?

#### • Works

Spend some time in quiet (maybe with some music playing) and reflect on the build up to Easter through Palm Sunday and the events that followed. If you have a DVD or Video of Gethsemane (eg "the Passion" or "Jesus of Nazareth") then you may like to watch it and sense the tension of that moment. Share any reflections and pray that you will gain a deeper understanding of the story in the next few days.

#### • This Week

Services in the coming days ... which can you come to (as a group or individually?) ...

Thursday - 9.30am @ BFPC - Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday - 7.00pm @ BFPC - Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Friday - 10.30am @ The Corn Exchange - A Walk of Witness

Friday - 3.00pm @ BFPC - An Hour at the Cross

Sunday - 9.00am @ BFPC - Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday - 10.30am @ BFPC - All Age Communion

Sunday - 11.00am @ Langton Long - All Age Communion

#### Focus at Home

Monday - Easter Monday Walk and Picnic

Igloos are optional - Watch out for details in Keynotes

#### Next week is the Easter Holidays ...

The following week .... Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Social Evening