

April 14 | Palm Sunday

He Chose to Give Us Confidence

Read [1 John 4:7-21](#)



15 | Mon – Approaching the end | Read [Mark 11:11-19](#)

Yesterday's ticker-tape parade in Jesus' honor could have been seen as acceptance by the people he came to save but it merely marked the countdown to his death. So what did he do on Monday? He went to church and kicked out all those using religion to turn a profit. Before you mentally chastise the vendors, ask yourself this probing question..."have I ever used my faith, religious connections or prayer requests to get something for my selfish interests?"

16 | Tue – Final words as a preacher | Read [Mark 11:20-13:37](#)

Would you go back the next day after you had insulted religious leaders by disrupting their system of 'worship' when speaking God's truth? That would take extraordinary boldness but impending death can free a person to focus their last days on the most important things. So what about you? Are there essential things you have been putting off because you are too busy? Tomorrow is not guaranteed. What will you regret not doing today?

17 | Wed – Behind the scenes | Read [Mark 14:1-11](#)

Much was happening behind the scenes on this last Wednesday of Jesus' life. The parade on Sunday was the final straw for some religious leaders. They had lost control of the masses and were in danger of losing their influence with the Roman government. This had to stop. At a critical moment, one of Jesus' inner-circle was willing to make a deal for the right price. Has anyone ever made plans to betray you? Or have you ever been the betrayer?

18 | Thu – Dinner, prayer, betrayal | Read [Mark 14:12-51](#) / [John 13-17](#)

Last words are precious. Remember the final conversation you had with someone who has died? Mark reports the events but John records in detail the last supper and conversation Jesus had with his closest friends the night he was arrested. Do his words take on new depth of meaning when you realize they were his parting words? What important things would you want your family and friends to know if it was your last conversation with them?

19 | Fri – The ugliest day | Read [Mark 15:1-47](#) (and [Matt. 26-27](#), [Luke 23](#), [John 18-19](#))

Multiple witnesses saw the ugliness that took place at the hill on Friday. The battered Man carried a cross to the top and willingly submitted to the ultimate humiliation but God saw something more. Each nail not only fixed Jesus' body to the beam but also the sins of the whole world. The cross still figuratively stands. What do you need to lay down there...anger, resentment, fear, anxious worries, bitterness, selfish attitudes or actions? When you walk away, will you leave them behind or will you be tempted to pick them up again?

20 | Sat – Silence | Read [Psalm 25:4-5](#) / [Isaiah 40:31](#)

Scriptures are silent about Saturday's events but we can imagine. The religious leaders rest, the status quo secure for now. The Romans have one less 'rebel' to deal with. The common belief that God does not really care about injustice was reinforced. Grief-stricken friends and family are in seclusion, numbed by the swift turn of events. Have you experienced a day like this? What is your hope in dark times? Do you believe 'Sunday' will come for you? Life will *always* follow death, for those who put their hope in the Lord.