



CONFIRMATION JOURNEY THROUGH LENT 2021



Introduction: The Passion of Christ

Why do we call it the *Passion* of Christ? "Passion" comes from the Latin word "passus" which means *suffering*. Therefore when we talk about the Passion of the Christ, we are simply talking about the suffering of Christ; his betrayal, his arrest, his trial, his beatings, the mocking of the crowds, and finally his crucifixion and death. This workbook is intended to be a journey through Christ's passion through the Gospel of Luke.

Please do not rush through this. Do each lesson during the week it is assigned, but don't feel the need to do it all at once. Each study has a main passage going through the Passion story, but there are also videos to watch, items to look up, and other passages to engage with. Give real thought to your answers and reflections.

Week 1 (Feb. 14-20): The Triumphal Entry

Opening Info: The events of this passage take place on what we call Palm Sunday. On this day we see the crowds cheering for Jesus, but on the Friday of this same week, they will be crying out for his death.

Luke 19:28-48

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near- already on the way down the Mount of Olives- the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

⁴⁵ And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

⁴⁷ And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, ⁴⁸ but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. Where is Jesus going in this passage? What do you know about this place?
2. What do the disciples of Jesus call him as he rides into Jerusalem?
3. What is the first thing Jesus does when he draws near into the city?
4. What does Jesus say about the city?
5. This passage takes place around the year 30 AD. In 70 AD, Jerusalem would be sacked by Rome and the temple destroyed. This is what Jesus is predicting in verses 43-44.
6. In verse 42 Jesus says, “would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!” Where are some places people go for peace?
7. What do you think Jesus is talking about when he says the “things that make for peace?”
8. Look up and read Romans 5:1 and 2 Thessalonians 3:16 and reflect upon the peace that God gives and how he gives it.

Week 2 (Feb. 21-Feb 27): Judas’ Betrayal

Opening Info: In this passage Christ’s enemies find an opportunity to put into action the plan they have been working on for a long time; to destroy Christ. But Christ has seen this coming for a long time. Before reading the passage below, read the following ones first: **Luke 6:6-11; 9:22; 9:44-45; 18:31-34; 19:47-48.**

Luke 22:1-6

^{22:1} Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. ³

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. What feast are Christ and his disciples celebrating in this passage?
2. Who wants to put Jesus to death and why?
3. Who “enters” into Judas in verse three? Does this let Judas “off the hook” for his betrayal of Christ? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Judas wanted to betray Jesus “in the absence of a crowd?”
5. How do you think Jesus will feel about being betrayed by one of his closest disciples?
6. Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? What was the situation? How did you deal with it? Are you still friends with the betrayer?

Week 3 (Feb 28-Mar 6): Passover and Lord’s Supper

Opening Info: In this passage Christ and his disciples are preparing to celebrate Passover. To learn more about Passover and how it came to be, watch the video from The Bible Project on Exodus 1-18 (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18/>). Jesus uses the feast of Passover to institute a new feast we call Holy Communion or The Lord’s Supper.

Luke 22:7-23

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹ They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰ He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. Not all of what we call the Words of Institution are found in the Gospel of Luke. The Words of Institution (what Pastor says before Communion is served) are a combination of Christ's words from four different places. Read also **Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.**
2. Why do you think Jesus instituted Holy Communion during the feast of Passover?
3. At Passover, the Jews would sacrifice a lamb. At times, Jesus is referred to the Lamb of God. Why do you think this is?
4. Who is the one who will betray Jesus? How do you think this person felt sitting at the table with Jesus?

Week 4 (Mar. 7-Mar 13): Prayer and Arrest

Opening Info: After celebrating the Passover meal with his disciples, Jesus takes them to the Mount of Olives for prayer. In this passage we see Christ lay his concerns and worries before his Father as he prepares for his Passion.

Luke 22:39-50

³⁹ And he [Jesus] came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless,

not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. Why do you think Jesus was in agony while he was praying? What is the cup that Jesus wants to be removed from him?
2. The detail about Christ "sweating blood" is something known as **Hematidosis** – Use Google to find some more info on it. What did you find?
3. What is God's will for Jesus?
4. Look up **Luke 22:51-53**. How did Christ react to the servant's ear being cut off by one of Christ's disciples?
5. We don't know much about this servant who had his ear cut off, but how do you think he reacted to Christ healing him even though the servant was part of the group coming to arrest Jesus?

Week 5 (Mar. 14-Mar 20): Peter's Denial

Opening Info: Peter is sometimes called by a few different names. In this passage Jesus refers to him as Simon. Later in the NT he is referred to as Cephas. Peter is often viewed as the leader and spokesperson of the disciples. He could be brash and bold, but he was very invested in following Christ. Verses 31-34 take place before Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives to pray. Verses 54-65 take place after Christ is betrayed and arrested.

Luke 22:31-34, 54-65

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

⁵⁴ Then they seized him [Jesus] and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. ⁶⁴ They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" ⁶⁵ And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. What does Jesus mean by his words in verses 31 and 32?
2. What will happen to Peter before the rooster crows?
3. To whose house do they take Jesus?
4. How many times does Peter deny even knowing Jesus?
5. How would you have felt if you, like Peter, denied Christ only for Christ to turn and look at you while Jesus was being tried and questioned (vs. 61)?
6. After Jesus is raised from the dead, he will meet with Peter and three times ask Peter, "do you love me," and three times Peter will respond, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Each time, Jesus will respond by telling Peter to take care of his people. This takes place in John 21:15-19 and is often viewed as an episode in which Christ not only forgives Peter of his denial, but also

reinstates him to his role of leader of the disciples. Eventually, Peter would die for his faith in Jesus by being crucified upside down.

7. Google the song, **“Can’t Take the Pain” by Third Day** and listen to it while reading the lyrics. It written from the perspective of Peter and explores Peter’s torment at having denied Jesus. The lyrics are below.

“Can’t Take the Pain” by Third Day

No, I didn't see this one commin'
It suddenly snuck up on me
I can't say you didn't tell me so
I can't say you didn't warn me

Well I can't take the pain,
Knowing that I left you
And I can't bare the shame
Of knowing I was wrong
But I'll take the blame
for everything that I've done
But I can't take the pain
of leaving you alone
Leaving you alone

I was there when they accused you
But I guess I was too afraid
Not just once, and not just twice
But three times I denied your name

Well I can't take the pain,
Knowing that I left you
And I can't bare the shame
Of knowing I was wrong
But I'll take the blame
for everything that I've done
But I can't take the pain
of leaving you alone
Leaving you alone

I never thought I'd get
Even a second chance

But you've given that, and so much more
And then for every time I ever did deny,
You asked me if I love you
You know I do, Lord

So I'm off to follow in your steps
It won't be easy, it's safe to say
Only two roads I can walk on down
The one less traveled is the one you
paved

But I can't take the pain,
Knowing that I left you
And I can't bare the shame
Of knowing I was wrong
But I'll take the blame
for everything that I've done
But I can't take the pain
of leaving you alone
Leaving you alone

Lord, you took the pain
Even though I left you
And you took the shame,
and you made it all your own
Why'd you take the blame
for everything that I've done?
Lord, you took the pain,
you and you alone
You and you alone.

Week 6 (Mar. 21-Mar 27): Trial

Opening Info: This passage takes place on Friday morning of Passion Week – we call it Good Friday. A lot happens on this Friday morning so note how fast those who hate Christ work to get him to the cross.

Luke 22:66-23:24

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." ⁷⁰ So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." ⁷¹ Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

^{23:1} Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." ³ And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him."

¹⁸ But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas" - ¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²² A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." ²³ But they were urgent,

demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. What are some of the accusations the elders bring against Jesus?
2. Who is Pontus Pilate? Pilate was the Roman Governor of all of Judea – what we refer to now as Israel. At the time the Gospels take place, Israel was under Roman rule. Pilate was given his power and position by the Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar.
3. Do you feel like Pilate is aggressive or passive in this passage? Why?
4. Who is Herod? His full name is Herod Antipas. He ruled the Galilee region of Judea (what we call Israel today.) Galilee is where Christ did much of his ministry. His disciples were also from this area. Herod's power was given to him by Rome. He may have called himself a king, but he was completely under Rome's authority.
5. Who is Barabbas?
6. Barabbas' means "son of the father." Why is that an ironic name?
7. Read **Galatians 3:26-4:7**. How are you like a Barabbas?

Week 7 (Mar. 28-Apr 3): Crucifixion and Death

Opening Info: Finally we come to Christ's crucifixion and death. Crucifixion was Rome's preferred method of execution for the worst of all criminals. Aspects of Christ's crucifixion have been foretold throughout the Old Testament. Read **Psalms 22 and Isaiah 53:3-12** before doing the rest of this study.

Luke 23:26-49

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say,

'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Questions/Comments/Reflections:

1. How do you think Simon of Cyrene felt carrying the cross of Jesus?
2. In verses 28-31 Jesus is once again referring to events that will happen in 70 AD when Rome sacks Jerusalem and the Temple is destroyed.
3. What does Jesus mean by his statement, "They know not what they do" in verse 34?
4. Which groups of people mock Jesus in this passage?
5. Could Jesus have saved himself? If he could, why didn't he? If he couldn't, why not?

6. In verse 44 there is reference to the “sixth hour” and the “ninth hour.” In the way time was tracked, this refers to noon and three in the afternoon. This is why it is so dramatic that the “sun’s light failed” in verse 45.
7. Why do you think the centurion declared that Jesus was innocent in verse 47?
8. In verse 48, it says the crowd went home beating their breasts. This is a sign of sorrow. Why was the crowd now full of sorrow?
9. Google the song **“Thief” by Third Day** (one of the best bands ever.) This song is written from the perspective of the repentant thief who was crucified alongside Jesus in verses 39-43. As you listen follow along with the lyrics printed below and put yourself in his story.

“Thief” by Third Day

I am a thief, I am a murderer
 Walking up this lonely hill
 What have I done? No, I don't remember
 No one knows just how I feel
 And I know that my time is coming soon

It's been so long, oh, such a long time
 Since lived with peace and rest
 Now I am here, my destination
 I guess things work for the best
 And I know that my time is coming soon

Who is this man? This man beside me
 They call the King of the Jews
 They don't believe that He's the Messiah
 But somehow, I know that it's true

They laugh at Him in mockery
 And they beat Him 'til He bleeds
 And they nail Him to the rugged cross
 They raise Him, yeah, they raise Him up
 next to me

My time has come and I'm slowly fading
 I deserve what I receive
 Jesus when You are in Your kingdom
 Could You please, please remember me?

And He looks at me still holding on
 The tears fall from His eyes
 And He says I tell the truth
 Today, you will be with Me in paradise
 And I know that my time, yes my time is
 coming soon
 And I know that my time, yes my time, is
 coming soon
 And I know Paradise, Paradise is coming
 soon