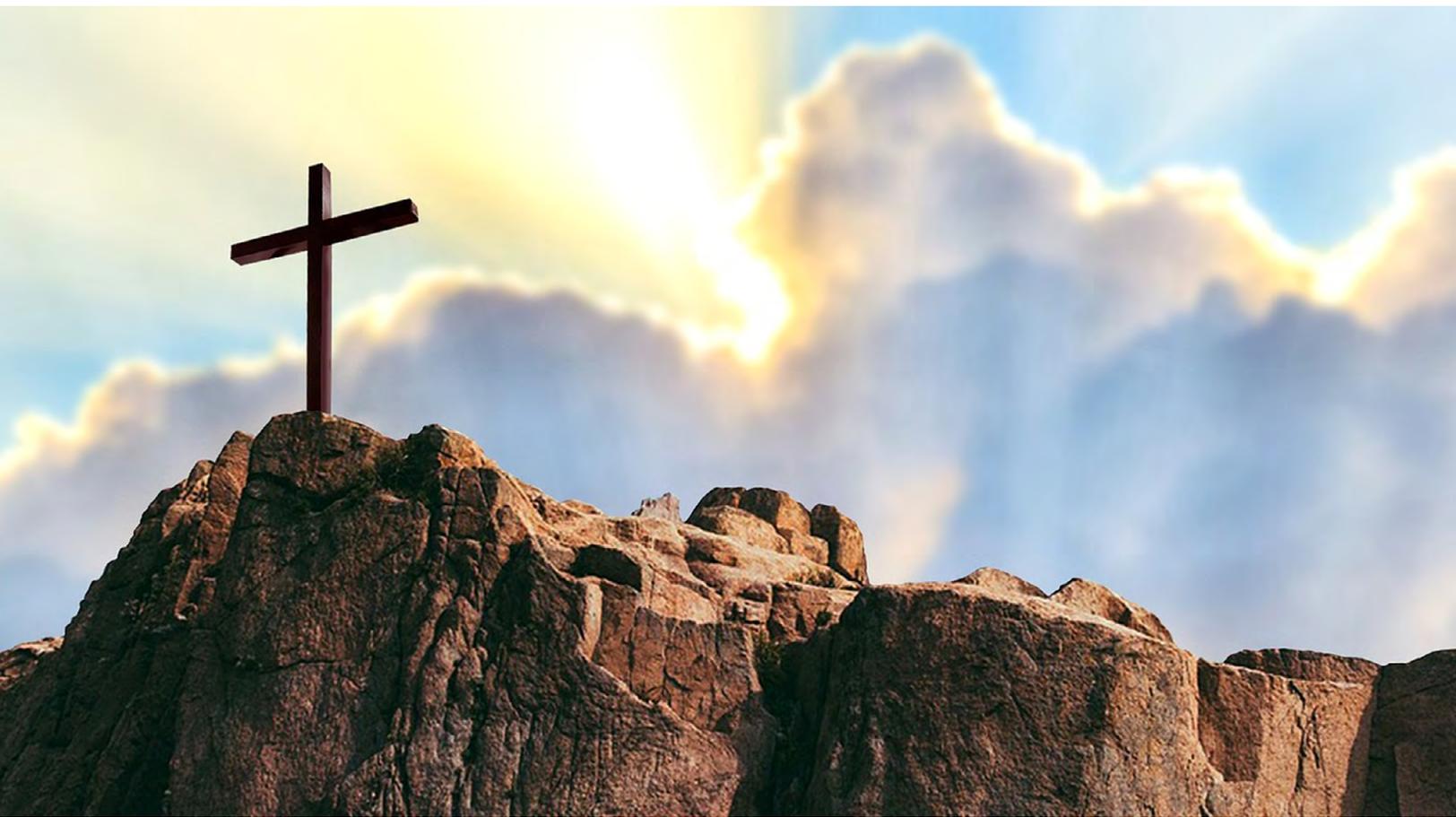


HOLY WEEK: WALKING WITH JESUS

The Week Before the Cross

By Anne Graham Lotz



Every year I read through the Gospel accounts of what took place from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday as I seek to wrap my heart and mind around those days. This year I'm inviting you to join me each day for a brief reading of Scripture that helps give us a meaningful grasp of what took place in the life of our Lord Jesus during Holy Week.

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EASTER SUNDAY

To Listen to Anne Read Today's Scriptures, [Click Here](#)

This is Easter Sunday, the first day of the week, the day of resurrection. Following the horror of Jesus' arrest and betrayal, following the brutality of His torture and trials climaxing in His crucifixion and death, following the silence and stillness of the cold, lifeless tomb, Sunday brought the spiritual equivalent of a nuclear explosion. Because Jesus rose from the dead! He's alive! He's alive! Listen to the Biblical description...

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Mary didn't know that according to Matthew

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. [1]

John records that Mary

...came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

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He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. [2]

Praise God! We share the joy of the disciples! Jesus is alive! Our sins are all forgiven! Heaven's gates are opened wide! Praise God! PRAISE GOD! Jesus is alive! And because He lives, we can live today. We can face tomorrow. We know that the best is yet to come. One day, we're going to our heavenly Home to live with Him forever! He's alive!

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Let me close out our week with the words of Paul's prayer in Ephesians chapter 1 verses 15 to 23:

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. [3]

As we conclude this Holy Week, may God richly bless you as you live in the glorious truth that Jesus is alive! He is the only Savior, He is the risen Lord, and He is the soon to return King of kings. Amen and Amen!

[1] Matthew 28:2-4

[2] John 20:2-18

[3] Ephesians 1:15-23

Thank you

for taking the time to reflect on Jesus and prepare your heart for Easter.
We pray these Scripture Readings were a blessing to you.

Who is Jesus?

For more information about how to have a personal relationship with Jesus so you can be sure of Heaven, visit our website using this link: www.annegrahamlotz.org/jesus-gods-living-word/



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