

Journey to the Cross

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Sunday, March 17, 2024

They were two major events in history that became turning points for the entire world and all of mankind. These events not only impacted world history but also the eternal future. One involves a forbidden tree which led to sin; the other a tree which sin led to - this was the cross of Christ. One was driven by disobedience which is unrighteousness; the other by perfect obedience which is righteousness.

Romans 5:12 (TPT) When Adam sinned, the entire world was affected. Sin entered human experience, and death was the result. And so, death followed this sin, casting its shadow over all humanity because all (in Adam) have sinned.

Romans 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience (*the first Adam*) the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (*the last Adam*) the many will be made righteous. (Praise the wonderful name of Jesus!!!)

We are soon approaching the Easter holiday in which we commemorate and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Many refer to the week leading up to Easter as Holy week.

Holy week starts with **Palm Sunday** – Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, then **Good Friday** – the day of His crucifixion, and finally **Easter Sunday** – the glorious day of His resurrection.

Each of the gospels share with us the last weeks and days of Jesus' life. In the weeks leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus was making His way up to Jerusalem. His disciples didn't understand, but He knew well, that **His journey to Jerusalem was His journey to the cross.**

*****Read Luke 18:31-34** *"We are going up to Jerusalem so that everything prophesied about the Son of Man will be fulfilled."*

It was for this purpose that Jesus had come into this World. He had been anointed for this purpose before the foundations of the earth were laid. (1 Peter 1:20)

He came to destroy all of the works of the devil and sin. He came to redeem all things defiled by sin. He came to reconcile all things back to God.

Luke 12:49–50 (LSB) ⁴⁹ "I have come **to cast fire** upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished!

I Have Come to Cast Fire Upon the Earth. What is this fire?

The Fire. (Is this fire the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit or the fire of judgment?)

Luke 3:16–17 (LSB) ¹⁶ John answered, saying to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water, but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the strap of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and **fire (Purification)**. ¹⁷ "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable **fire (Judgment)**."

The Readiness of Christ!

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“How I wish it were already kindled & “How distressed I am until it is finished!” – these expressions show the Lord’s longing for the redemption of the redeemed and the doing away with all sin.

Sin warrants the judgment of God. God hates sin! There is but one judgment of God against sin and that is death. The wages of sin is death and God will not spare His judgment. Jesus became the propitiation for our sin and the sin of the whole world – 1 Jn. 2:2

His journey to the cross is our journey to life!

Jesus was ready for it to be done!

How long will God suffer with sin?

Remember the days of Noah?

Remember the days of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Jesus says, “Except you repent, you will all likewise perish!”

God is longing for the redemption of His world – of His creation!

The earth is longing for redemption!

All who have the life of the Spirit are longing for their redemption as well.

Romans 8:22–24 (TPT) ²² To this day we are aware of the universal agony and groaning of creation, as if it were in the contractions of labor for childbirth. ²³ And it’s not just creation. We who have already experienced the firstfruits of the Spirit also inwardly groan as we passionately long to experience our full status as God’s sons and daughters—including our physical bodies being transformed. ²⁴ For this is the hope of our salvation!

**Because of His Journey to the Cross,
We Have A Living Hope!**

Because the cross was the only way, Jesus set His sights upon Jerusalem; He finished His journey to the cross. He finished the will of His Father!

Hebrews 12:2 (TPT) Because His heart was focused on the joy of knowing that we would be His, He endured the agony of the cross, conquered its humiliation, and now He sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!