

# Five Days to Live

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By Brian Flewelling

Today is Palm Sunday. Celebrating the day Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, five days before they crucified him. He had taken the 100 mile journey down from Galilee, with hundreds of thousands of other Jews arriving from all over the country to worship YHVH at the temple during Passover holiday.

5 Days. If you had five days to live. What would you do with them. What's on your bucket list.

## Bucket List: Pictures

Jesus chose a very different route with his remaining five days on earth. I believe there's something every one of us can learn from his final five days that has the curious power to refocus the way we live the rest of our lives. That goes beyond fun, to meaningful.

## Luke 19:35-44

### Vs 35-36

**They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.**

### Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, not a horse.

Kings Solomon rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

In the ancient Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses if they rode to war, but donkeys if they came in peace.

### Jesus' led through influence and not domination.

- Jesus didn't try to manipulate, coerce or control people.
- In Jesus' world people had the freedom to come and go. To draw close or leave him. To accept him or refuse him. To serve him or betray him.
- Jesus chose to change people, not by the policy of sword-or-die, but allowing them to encounter truth and make a decision for themselves.
- Jesus didn't chose the life of a politician to control the legal system-"You have to listen to me because I'm in control." He chose the life of a prophet to influence the heart of why people make choices.
- "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Isaiah 29:13
- What does it mean for us parents to raise children not simply to follow rules, but to win their hearts and shape their minds.
- How many of us if we strode into our supervisor's office would get much further if we came in on a donkey instead of a white charger?
- Leaders are at the bottom, not the top.
- Theodore Roosevelt. Astonishingly popular because he loved and served the people.
- Maid who cooked the cornbread.
- Jesus led through influence and relationships, not coercion and control.

- How different and refreshing our lives are when we learn to do the same?

### **Vs 37-38**

**When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:**

**38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Passover holiday song:

The disciples are recognizing the fulfillment in Jesus.

### **Psalm 118:1-5, 25-26**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

2 Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

3 Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

4 Let those who fear the Lord say:

“His love endures forever.”

5 In my anguish I cried to the Lord and he answered by setting me free.

<sup>25</sup> LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

The Apostle Paul said it very simply:

**It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Galatians 5:1**

**And because you belong to (Jesus), the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8:1, NLT**

**Jesus' mission was to set other's free.**

- He doesn't want slaves. He wants sons and daughters.
- He doesn't want you plundered by sin. He wants you to be more than a conqueror.
- He doesn't want you sinking in an ocean of shame.  
He wants you soaring in the clouds of a pure life and a clear conscious.
- He doesn't want you anxious and fearful of anything and everyone.  
The sons of God are bold as lions.
- He doesn't want you to feel confused and beaten down  
He wants you to have his soundness of mind and clarify of thought.

- He doesn't want you lonely, and impoverished  
He wants you flourishing in relationships and community.
- 1 John 3:8 He has come to make war on his enemies.
- Isaiah 58:6 He is the champion that snaps chains of injustice.
- Revelation 1:14 He's got lightening flashing from his eyes.
- What did Jesus do with the final 5 days of his life. He was passionate about setting people free.
- My friends, the more we are busy with our sword, not attacking others, but setting others free the more our lives will feel full and complete.

### Vs 39-40

**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"  
40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."**

Jesus quoting from the prophet Habakkuk 2:10-14

Jesus wasn't saying the stones would praise him. He was raise up another prophet to condemn you.  
Habakkuk was condemning the people

<sup>10</sup>You have plotted the ruin of many peoples,  
shaming your own house and forfeiting your life.

<sup>11</sup>The stones of the wall will cry out,  
and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

<sup>12</sup>"Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed  
and establishes a town by injustice...

<sup>14</sup>For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

- Jesus was a prophet. Entrusted with the truth of God.
- He's saying, If you don't recognize that I'm a prophet, God will raise up these stones to condemn you.
- Even at the height of popularity, Jesus is rebuking the crowds and the Pharisees.
- He knows that in 5 days crowds that were telling him what a great job he was doing, would shouting what a terrible person he was, and would be so blinding mad...they couldn't even think straight.

**Crowds change their minds.**

**Jesus was faithful to God, not to the consensus of people.**

- America may continue to revile the church more and more.
- Some churches can vote out the will of God.
- Some of you feel the pressure to live to please your family or family's interests.
- [Romans 12:2](#)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- The Christian life is not a flag in the wind blowing where everyone else blows.
- It's life with a compass, with a vision. That says, it doesn't matter if the wind is at our back or in our face, this is the way, we will walk in it.
- When we learn to be faithful to God instead of the expectations of people, we discover a whole new level of freedom and joy in our lives.

#### **Vs 41-44**

**As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."**

What did Jesus do with the last 5 days of his life?

Right after Jesus rebuked the crowd/Pharisees he wept over them.  
He knew the terrible fate that awaited God's precious city/people.

#### **He wept over the lost people in prayer.**

In the garden he wept over them again.

The world doesn't know what to do with the church when the church doesn't conform to it.  
But neither does the church know what to do with the world when the church doesn't weep over it.

- Only God can give a person the gift of eternal life.
- But the church can be the womb that incubates that life in prayer.

In October Lester committed a goal to this congregation that over the next 2 years we'd labor to see 200 souls come into the kingdom.

- We have about 20. You can't force it. But you can pray it in.
- I want to remind us to keep laboring in prayer.
- Empowered by God for daily encounters.
- On the opposite end of that encounter is someone who is hurting. Someone who is lost. Someone who needs encouragement.
- This is a mid-course reminder.

#### **Ending Prayer:**

Have everyone take out their bulletin, or a piece of paper, and write down the name of one person, God is giving you a heart to pray for, someone that needs to know Jesus. Hold the paper up and pray together as a congregation.



## Discussion Questions:

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

## *The Power of Forgiveness*

Message by Pastor Brian Flewelling

### ICEBREAKER:

- What's on your bucket list; what are a few of the activities you'd love to do, or missions you'd love to accomplish before you die?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. On Sunday Pastor Brian pointed out that Jesus chose to lead through influence and relationship, not domination and control.
  - Which do you find harder or easier, to build relationships and influence the hearts of people or to control people through rules and commands? Why?
  - How do **you** build relationships and influence people through their hearts and minds; what works for you?
  - What happens to people when you try to control them?
2. Read Psalm 118
  - Make a list with two columns. In one column write down every mention of who God is and what he does for his people. In the second column write down every mention of our response to God and the actions we should take.
  - In verses 1-4 the psalm talks about God's "love". In the Hebrew language that word means his "loving-kindness." Do you feel the freedom to show affectionate loving-kindness to others? What holds you back? How do people seem to receive it when you show them loving-kindness?
  - Freedom is clearly a theme in this psalm. In verse 5 we see that the Lord has set us free. If Jesus were sitting right in front of you how do you think he would describe freedom?
  - We all know that Jesus' mission was to set people free. But how does that change my life, to know that my mission in life is to set people free (as a disciple of Jesus)?
  - Who are some of the peoples God is giving me a passion to set free?
  - How can I learn to balance enjoying the life God has given me, while also prioritizing a life of purpose and calling, and not just leisure enjoyment?
  - In verses 6-9 we see a trust in God's protection and provision. Those should be a source of freedom for us. Yet we so often worry about our jobs, or our future, or our paychecks, or our needs. Why do you think it's so hard for us to relax and trust in God's protection and provision?

- In verses 10-12 the writer cuts off the negative influence of the nations around him. How do we learn to remain faithful to Jesus and live free of the expectations and pressure of family, or peers, or society to conform to a certain way of doing things?
- What are some of the pressures that your family can put on you to act a certain way? Your peers? Society?

## **WORSHIP & THANKSGIVING:**

Four times in Psalm 118 the psalm talks about giving thanks. Take some time as a group to worship the Lord and offer simple thanksgiving prayers.