

A banner for Passion Week Wednesday. The background is a collage of images: a landscape with green hills and a road, a close-up of a textured surface, and a sunset sky. A purple rectangular box with a white border is centered over the collage, containing the text "PASSION WEEK" in large, white, serif capital letters. Below this box, the word "WEDNESDAY" is written in white, sans-serif capital letters on a dark background.

# PASSION WEEK

## WEDNESDAY

Good morning. We are not told what Jesus did on Wednesday of Passion Week. It appears to be a day of rest with his loved ones, his 11 loyal disciples. However, there is one who is not loyal to the Master. Even though he agreed to make Jesus his rabbi, in the end, he heard what Jesus had to say, saw the miracles he performed, and yet never truly believed.

He refused to put his faith in Jesus, and in that, he refused to submit himself to Jesus as Lord. So, when Judas took the bread of the covenant meal, but was disloyal in his heart, he opened the door for Satan to possess him. The Scriptures say that the devil entered his heart. Can you imagine something so horrible to have an evil spirit possess you? It possessed him, empowering him to complete his treacherous and greedy betrayal.

So, before we share more, let's make that our word for today, Wednesday. Be submissive. Say it with me. Be submissive. One more time.

Be submissive to Jesus. Judas refused to yield to Jesus' Lordship. Instead, he did the unthinkable. Matthew 26:14. Then, one of the twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, what are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?

So they counted out for him 30 silver coins, five weeks of wages. From then on, Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. And that time would come the next day. Having been to the garden many times, Judas knew where Jesus would be. So, he would lead the authorities there to arrest him.

He took matters into his own hands. Once the betrayal was complete, it appears that the devil dispossessed Judas, and he came to his senses. He went and confessed to the religious leaders. I have betrayed an innocent man. Then he tried to return the blood money.

Judas took the 30 pieces of silver and threw them into the temple, as if that would make right what he had done wrong. But it didn't. And then, in guilt and really his final act of doing things his way, he went out and hung himself. It's a picture of the sad fate of all who refuse to submit their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ. So today, as we go through this Wednesday, I exhort you to pause and continually submit yourself, your thoughts, your feelings, your choices, your paths over to the lordship of Jesus.

James 4, 7, 8. Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Anytime you're tempted to resist the Lord, to rebel against what he said, or any way he's leading you.

Stop. Just stop. Reject pride, rebellion, and any excuses for disobeying, and right then pause and submit. Say it, Lord, I submit to you. Pray it not my will, but yours be done.

I often sing this hymn to express my faith and choice to be submissive. "All to Jesus, I surrender all to Him I freely give, I will ever love and trust him in his presence daily live I surrender all I surrender all all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all." Let's pause and pray, and Lord, we acknowledge that our lives are yours. This day is yours; our paths are yours, and we submit to your leading in our lives. Thank you that you will lead us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

Now you continue. God bless.