



All Things New – Part 1 – The beginning of the end

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BIG IDEA – God perspective versus human perspective.

scripture focus - Matthew 16:21 NLT From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would **suffer** many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be **killed**, but on the third day he would be **raised from the dead**.

Maybe you have never considered this before, as Palm Sunday and the Passion Week are so intense and filled with content and detail. **Have you ever wondered what the weeks before THE week was like for Jesus?** The week prior to His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Where was He and what was He doing? You may be surprised to learn that months earlier, Jesus did visit hell, or at least the gates of hell, then spent time with friends a day before the triumphant entry! **Why Jesus was there? Who accompanied Him? What did He foretell?**

Jesus began preparing his disciples earlier on. And things became much more intense as the final weeks grew near.

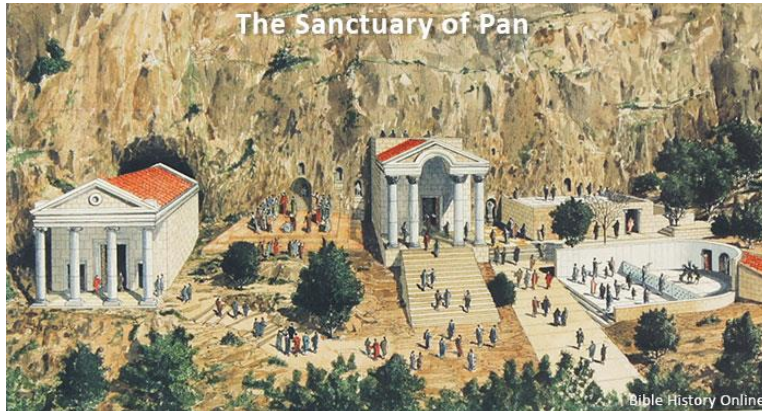
How does one talk about the beginning of the end? How do you prepare? What's the best way to prepare others?

Jesus spoke clearly and directly of his mission and own death. **Things have to die, for new to begin. Christ's mission was death, and it was unacceptable to his friends. This conversation took place at a very unusual place, because it was a place of death!** And folks loved worshipping things that had to do with death.

Isn't that strange to worship death and things of death? There are a lot of folks who like playing around with dark and seemingly powerful entities, fixate around death and dying.

Let's talk about where this took place – Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus chose to gather his disciples at a very unique place – [Caesarea Philippi](#). It is only mentioned a couple of times in the New Testament. **A city located in the foothills of Mount Hermon, about fifteen miles north of the Sea of Galilee.**



At an altitude of 1150 feet, there were massive temples dedicated to the worship of Pan.



The big **worship-tourist attraction** was the **Cave of Pan** - Inside the cave was a seemingly bottomless pit with an unlimited quantity of water – with a gigantic hole that appeared to be bottomless! It was recorded that a rock would be dropped, and one would never hear it hit the water. They believed it was a pit that led to hell itself.

In ancient times this was the area that the first king of Israel (Jeroboam) led the northern kingdom of Israel into idolatry.



Matthew 16:13-16 NLT When **Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi**, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

This place is where Jesus decided it was a great place to take a public opinion poll by asking, “who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They begin to answer him, with various famous figures they heard people buzzing about on the street. Then Jesus made it very personal, “but who do **you** say that I am?” **Peter gave his famous declaration, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**
Matthew 16:16 NLT

It was in this moment, in this place, this backdrop of the temples, and more **notably the entrance to the Cave of Pan, otherwise known as the pagan Gates of Hades**, that Jesus tells his disciples, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and **the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**”
Matthew 16:18 NIV

It is extraordinary to me that Jesus would choose this place to have a conversation about his own suffering, death and coming back from the dead – resurrecting to **life**.

What an experience in the hills of [Caesarea Philippi](#).

Of course, this wasn't the only time Jesus spoke of his near future. He did so as they walked up to Jerusalem from Bethany.

Matthew 20:17-19 NLT As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where **the Son of Man will be betrayed** to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will **sentence him to die**. Then they will **hand him over to the Romans to be mocked**,

flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead." (also, in Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34).

What a place to remember the words of Jesus! What a moment when everyone of his disciples felt a shift in their world, and the conflict and contrast between what they THOUGHT would happen, what they WANTED to happen and what Jesus told them was absolutely going to happen.

What takes place when our plans are confronted with **God's plans? Especially when it comes to suffering, loss, or grief!**

Denial? Frustration? Anger?

Was Jesus warning for worry or peace for preparation?

There is and always has been a **God perspective versus human perspective**. A stark contrast between the things of God and the things of humans.

Which one do we want? Which one is true? Which one works?
There is an immediate illustration following this amazing learning

The other major event that took place the week before **THE** week is at Jesus' good friend's house in Bethany.

Coming from Jericho, it's at least several hours of walking the 15-mile journey.

Travel means lots of thinking time alone and talking time together!

Sometimes I think we prefer to "meet" friends at a destination so that we can control when we arrive and more importantly when we leave! **But it's the travel time that can be the most productive for conversation.** Drive together! Walk together! Long walks and long drives are amazing at getting out thoughts, ideas and words that may not be available any other way. **Much of Jesus' week before THE week was spent in travel time with people!**

How many amazing conversations have you had with God while on a walk or on a drive? It's even better than shower time!

John 12:1-8 ESV

"Six days before the Passover, **Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was**, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. **Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.**

- **Mary** therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and **anointed** the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- But **Judas Iscariot**, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

John gives commentary on Judas’ comments!

He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

Spending the Sabbath meal with good friends...

Matthew & Mark tell us that they met **for a meal at Simon’s house**. But John’s gospel tells us that Lazarus, Martha, Mary was there along with the disciples – **Judas is specifically mentioned only in John’s account**.

Jesus and His disciples are staying in Bethany in the home of Lazarus. Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead on a previous trip to Bethany and as a result of this miracle, the chief priests decided that Jesus had to die. **Despite all the evidence that Jesus had given them, the religious leaders refused to accept that Jesus is the Son of God. Meanwhile, many people accepted that Jesus was divine and followed Him.**

They are served supper by Martha while Mary (her sister) sits at the feet of Jesus. Mary pours very expensive perfume/nard over the feet of Jesus and wipes His feet with her hair ([Great blogpost about Mary](#)).

Judas, one of the disciples grew very angry. He perceived this action by Mary to be too much extravagance and that the pure nard should have been sold and the money given to the poor. **Judas was actually a thief and had no intention of giving the money to the poor.** Jesus reprimanded him and told Judas to leave Mary alone, that she was preparing for His coming burial.

The characters present with Jesus. Which one is you?

- **Simon** was grateful to be a part. Simon is unknown, possibly one healed of skin disease. He may have been the father of Lazarus. Simon is just enjoying being with the man who healed him.

- **Lazarus** lounged. Lazarus was a different man, probably no longer even afraid of death.
- **Martha** served. Martha found her joy in hospitality and serving.
- **Mary** anointed. Mary was so overwhelmed with Jesus' presence that she gave extravagantly.
- **Judas** questioned. Judas was struggling with almost everything that Jesus stood for.

All this takes place before **Palm Sunday**

It's the beginning of the last week before Jesus' suffering, humiliation, separation from God and death, how would you spend your last week?

It always makes me think about two things: One, does **knowing what is going to happen helpful in our struggle to understand the ways of God?** For the disciples, it was not received well and clearly after Jesus' death they neither believed nor remembered Jesus' words. **Two, Jesus seemed to spend a lot of time with his friends before all the craziness took place.** I think it's valuable to invest in our relationships **before** we may be faced with suffering, loss, grief, or pain. These relationships become critical when we go through difficult times.

NOTES

Scriptures

Matthew 16:13-16 NLT When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:18 NIV And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:21-28 NLT From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would **suffer** many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be **killed**, but on the third day he would be **raised from the dead**. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. **You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.**" Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to

hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.” (also, in Mark 8:27-37, Luke 9:18-20)

Matthew 20:17-19 NLT As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him.

“Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” (also, in Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34).

John 12:1-8 NLT Six days before the Passover celebration began, **Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself. Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”**

Commentary

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

Vs 13. **Cæsarea Philippi**, The site of the city was near the chief source of the Jordan, which flowed from a cave which, under the influence of the Greek cultus that came in with the rule of the Syrian kings, was dedicated to Pan, and the old name of the city, Paneas, bore witness to this consecration. Herod the Great built a temple there in honour of Augustus (Jos. Ant. xv. 10, § 3), and his son Philip the tetrarch (to whose province it belonged) enlarged and embellished the city, and re-named it in honour of the emperor and to perpetuate his own memory. From Agrippa II. it received the name of Neroneas, as a like compliment to the emperor to whom he owed his title; but the old local name survived these passing changes, and still exists in the modern Bâiâs.

Vs 21. **From that time forth began Jesus.**—The prominence given to the prediction shows that it came upon the minds of the disciples as something altogether new. **They had failed to understand the mysterious hints of the future which we find in, “Destroy this temple” (John 2:19), in the Son of Man being “lifted up” (John 3:14), in the sign of the prophet “Jonas” (Matthew 12:39; Matthew 16:4).** Now **the veil is uplifted**, and the order of events is plainly foretold—the entry into Jerusalem, the rejection, the condemnation, the death, the resurrection.

Benson Commentary

the elders — The most honorable and experienced men; from the chief priests — Accounted the most religious, and the scribes — The most learned body of men in the nation.

[Glenn: Have we ever thought about this fact, the yearly offering of the spotless lamb, **the atonement of sins for the people must be offered by the High Priest. Leviticus 16 the [high priest](#) offers the sacrifice for himself and the people.** Hebrews says that Jesus **is** the high priest. Did Jesus, acting as high priest offer himself up as the sacrifice? Hebrews 9 & 10 explain how Jesus was the only one capable of offering himself as that once and final sacrifice.]

Matthew 16:21. *From that time forth* — **When they had made that full confession of Christ that he was the Messiah, the Son of God; began Jesus to show unto his disciples** — Another most important point, namely, that he must suffer and be put to death, as a malefactor. If they had not been well grounded in their belief of Christ's being the Son of God, it would have been a great shock to their faith to be informed that he must suffer and die.

[Glenn: **Peter's confession of Jesus being the Messiah must have been the trigger moment that it was time to let them know exactly what was to take place.**]

Internet Links

[Pastor Darell at netbiblestudy.com](http://PastorDarell.net) - THE CONTRAST BETWEEN “THE THINGS OF GOD” AND “THE THINGS OF MEN”

God's Perspective
Human's Perspective

<https://www.scripturalgrace.com/post/holy-week-bible-plan-and-timeline-of-jesus-last-week>

[Timelines of Jesus' Ministry](#)

[**Why did Jesus go to Caesarea Philippi?**](#)

[Amazing map of Jesus travels in the New Testament.](#)

[OUTLINE OF THE STORY OF JESUS USING MAPS](#)