

# HOLY WEEK

*Devotional*



# MIXED EMOTIONS

Pastor Sam Marchant

**READ / LUKE 19:35-38 & LEVITICUS 1:3-4, 2:1, 3:1, 4:20, 5:16**

**VERSE /** He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!” - Luke 19:40

Alright, I’m gonna start off the devotionals with a heated topic, the new Dana Point Harbor. Right now we’re in the middle of the historic harbor being torn down and rebuilt to be more flashy. Some people can’t stand it, others are excited for the change, and a few probably haven’t even noticed yet because they haven’t driven past it.

But that tension, different opinions, different expectations, that’s not new.

About 2,000 years ago, when Jesus Christ rode in on a donkey (on what we now call Palm

Sunday), people had mixed emotions too. The Pharisees hated Him and the claims He made. The crowds were expecting a political revolt. The Romans didn’t care, as long as things stayed under control and He did not threaten Caesar’s Power. You see, people may have their own ideas about Jesus, but their ideas cannot change the truth of why He came

Jesus wasn’t showing up to tear things down; He came to fulfill what had already been promised in the Old Testament. And one place we see that clearly is in the book of Leviticus. We don’t open this book as often as we should, and it’s vital. Because Jesus is all over it. Like He said in Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the

Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Jesus didn’t come to remove the Old, but to fulfill it. You could even say Jesus is the law in the flesh – the perfect will of God, fully lived out.

In the first few chapters of Leviticus, we are introduced to five different types of sacrifices (offerings) that Israel would practice to be forgiven by God and to have fellowship with God.

## **BURNT OFFERING –**

Completely burned sacrifice on the altar, showing total surrender to God.

**GRAIN OFFERING –** flour, oil, and incense given to God as worship for what He has provided.

**PEACE OFFERING –** shared between God, priests, and the person, showing restored fellowship with God.

**SIN OFFERING –** given for unintentional sin, focused on cleansing from impurity.

**GUILT OFFERING –** given for specific wrongs, emphasizing payment for guilt.

But the problem with these, is that they would have to be repeated over and over again, and they were only temporary to

allow people into His presence. Now fast forward to Jesus, He is those very sacrifices, but permanent.

Hebrews 10 declares, “The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time.” - Hebrews 10:1,12

When you put all of those sacrifices together, you find Jesus. Jesus is the provided sacrifice who surrendered His life, giving payment for our sin, which brings cleansing so we can have fellowship with God. And this is what Jesus had in store for us when He rode into town on a donkey, a week before His resurrection. This Holy Week, may our response not mirror the religious leaders, the crowds, or the Romans, but instead reflect the childlike wonder of the Lamb who was slain.







# NOT ONE STONE LEFT

Pastor Rod Mayer

**READ / MARK 11:12-14, 20-26**

**VERSE** / I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. - Mark 11:24-25

As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, His disciples pointed out the massive and beautiful buildings surrounding them.

But Jesus responded:

“Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another.” - Matthew 24:1-2

The very first house our high school ministry tried to build in Mexico was made of plywood.

Midway through construction, a dust devil came out of nowhere, lifted the unfinished 8x12 structure, and slammed it 30 feet away, leaving nothing but a pile of rubble.

The next year... we switched to cement blocks.

On Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus said something similar would happen, but not to a small structure in Mexico. He said it about the Temple in Jerusalem, the pride of the nation, the center of worship, identity, and hope.

To those listening, this wasn't just shocking; it was unthinkable.

If Jesus had been talking about our little plywood house, that would make sense.

But He wasn't.

He was talking about the Temple... and the Temple was everything.

History tells us He was right. In A.D. 70, Roman forces destroyed it completely.

But Jesus wasn't just predicting destruction – He was revealing transformation.

The people had slowly anchored their faith to a place... instead of the Person standing right in front of them.

The Temple and its rituals had subtly become the object of their trust.

It's easy to read that and think, How could they miss Immanuel, God with us?

But it's easier than we think.

We can tie our faith to a church... a pastor... a worship leader... a familiar seat... or even a role we've “earned”.

And when those things are disrupted – we feel it.

When Jesus spoke about the Temple's destruction, He was pointing to a greater reality. Earlier, in John 2:19-21, He said:

“Destroy this temple, and I will

raise it again in three days.”

He was talking about Himself; the true Temple.

No longer would God's presence be confined to a building.

No longer would access to God depend on rituals and systems.

Through Jesus, God's presence becomes personal. Relationship replaces ritual.

What was once hidden in plain sight – in a building and a system – is now revealed fully in a Person: Jesus.

And because of what He has done, everything changes.

Scripture says:

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” – 1 Corinthians 3:16

Yes it's easy to recognize God's presence in a church service, but the deeper invitation is to live every day aware that you are the new temple, the dwelling place of God.

The Temple fell. Jesus rose.

And now – He lives in you.





# THE KINGDOM ON ITS KNEES

Pastor Dan Russell

**READ / JOHN 13:1-5**

**VERSE /** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. - John 13:34

Maundy Thursday, sometimes called Holy Thursday, marks a pivotal moment in Holy Week. On this night, Jesus reveals the true nature of His Kingdom

Jesus knew that it was his last night on earth and made arrangement to share his last meal with his disciples. He rose from the table, removed his robe and took the towel of a servant to wash his disciple's feet. What seems humble and ordinary (washing feet) is a window into divine love that stoops down to meet us where we are in our area of need and brokenness.

Jesus humble act reveals the heart and majesty of God's kingdom. He reveals greatness that is found in lowering oneself to serve others. The kingdom of God does not look like earthly power. Jesus shows that true authority is not domination, but sacrificial love.

The world says power rises upward; Jesus shows that the kingdom moves downward.

This very moment invites us to see serving as the heartbeat of the kingdom. The Kingdom kneels!

**HIDDEN BEGINS TO BE REVEALED THROUGH LOVE AND SERVING / JOHN 13:6-11**

Here Peter struggles and even

protests Jesus' foot washing – but Jesus tells him that being washed by Him is integral to belonging to His kingdom.

Like Peter, as we go about our day the issues of life pile up and our feet can get dirty. We need to humble ourselves, invite the Lord to search our hearts, that we may release the burdens and allow him to cleanse our walk so we can continue to share companionship with him.

The washing here points not only to humility but also to forgiveness and cleansing. It's symbolic of spiritual cleansing and our need for Jesus' grace to be part of His kingdom. Jesus reveals he is the one who washes clean the burdens of the day, heals and comforts. He also reveals that greatness in God's kingdom is measured by love and service to others. This moment begins to break open the mystery of His identity in a way that words alone could not.

Unfolding to us, is an invitation for us to be ongoingly reconciled to God and to one another. In the kingdom on its knees, we first receive grace before we can share it. We can't give what we don't have!

**THE KINGDOM MANDATE / JOHN 13:12-15**

Jesus turns the act of service into a mandate. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum – “commandment.” His kingdom is not a one and done gesture; it is a way of life. Where we serve one another in love. Jesus told the disciples to follow his example and to put into practice what he had done for them. In doing so, they would experience God's blessings. The posture of kneeling before another becomes the posture of discipleship: to wash feet – in whatever form that takes in our world, that is to live as Jesus lived. Go and do likewise!

**THE NEW COMMANDMENT: LOVE THAT REVEALS THE KINGDOM / JOHN 13:34-35**

Jesus gives a new commandment: to love one another as He has loved. This love, so radical and costly, helps lift the veil on God's redemptive purpose. Though still not fully understood, the disciples now begin to glimpse that Jesus' path will lead to total self-giving love revealed in suffering. God's hidden plan starts to be revealed with clarity not through power but through humble service and sacrificial covenant love.



# RESTING WITHIN RED DOORS

Pastor Max Johnson

READ / LUKE 23:1-56

**VERSE** / The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last. - Luke 23:45-46

Our high school Ministry here at CBC is called “Red Door”. Look for the two big red doors on the corner of Victoria and Sepulveda Ave., you can’t miss it. The doors of our building are not red because we wanted a stylish exterior, nor because we want to grab the attention of any high school student passing by, our doors are red for a much more

powerful reason than that.

Our doors are red because of the incredible story in Exodus 12 where the LORD God executed judgment on all of Egypt for their wicked deeds and how they had enslaved God’s people, refusing to let them go. God said that He would pass through the land and strike down the firstborn of every man and beast. To be protected from this righteous judgement, God told His people to sacrifice an innocent lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the house. Anyone within those doorposts coated with blood would be protected from all wrath and judgment. Exodus 12:13 “Now the

blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”

Have you ever been punished for something you were completely innocent of? I sure have. When I was on my 8th grade Washington, DC trip, my friends bought cheap laser pointers from a gift shop. One night as we were staying across the street from the U.S. Capitol building, they pointed the laser pointers out the window of our hotel at random civilians passing by. I was preoccupied in the shower trying to scrub off poison oak that I had gotten on a hike the week before. Before I entered the shower they were rolling on the floor laughing at people becoming terrified when they saw a laser land on their chest, but when I got out of the shower all the lights were off and everyone was in bed totally silent.

I looked out the window to see two police cars and police officers pointing up at our room. I had not touched a laser pointer that night, although I did think it was a hilarious prank haha. Our principal was not very happy with us when news of the situation came to his attention.

And because I was in their room, I was counted just as guilty as the rest of the boys. I remember complaining so much about being grouped in with the rest of the boys and trying to explain myself as innocent, but to no avail.

If you’ve ever been punished for something you were innocent of, you know how deeply it can wound your heart and how much passion it can create for justice. It reminds me of that Passover lamb, totally innocent, white as snow, yet slain for God’s people to protect them from judgment. This was only a mere foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus would make in order to save us from judgment of sins we were truly guilty of.

Jesus of Nazareth, kind, compassionate, selfless, and innocent, yet treated as if He was a capital offender. He did not complain, He did not try to explain His innocence. His goal was not to save Himself, His goal was to save us. Isaiah 53:7 says He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

Jesus came to earth for this very mission: to lay down His



