

# Morning Worship

March 26, 2017

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCJL permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus # 22	<i>Bless His Holy Name</i>	Tim/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Missions Moment		Randy Harr
Scripture Reading	Psalm 96:1-9	Tim/People
Hymn # 3	<i>Worthy of Worship</i>	Tim/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Hymn # 555	<i>A Child of the King</i>	Tim/People
Hymn # 550	<i>I'd Rather Have Jesus</i>	Tim/People
Anthem	<i>My Tribute Medley</i>	Worship Choir
Children's Worship		(Children are dismissed)
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message	<i>Malachi: Be Steadfast</i>	Allan Lane
Hymn # 312	<i>Softly and Tenderly</i>	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus #571	<i>Let Others See Jesus in You</i>	Tim/People

## Prologue to The Passion

Luke 9:51, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:30, 36-46

Easter is coming. Over the next few weeks we will examine the Passion Narrative, today from the perspective of the Garden of Gethsemane, and the other weeks in view of the Christological significance of each passion account within its respective Gospel. The message is that Christ's passion happened not merely as the result of human actions, but in accordance with the Scriptures and the will of God. Let's begin by defining a couple terms.

**Passion Narrative:** Latin *passio*, meaning suffering. The Passion Narrative usually begins with the plot against Jesus during the Feast of Unleavened Bread and concludes with His crucifixion and burial. Collectively the events that took place during this week mark the beginning of the end of Jesus' life on earth. At the same time, because they include the sacrificial suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, they also mark the beginning of Jesus' resurrection and the new life God offers through His Son. While it covers a short time in the life of Jesus, it is one of the most theologically significant weeks in all of Scripture.

**The Garden:** Represents grief. We see the disciples struggling to follow Jesus and Jesus persevering in doing the Father's will. Remember there are two main gardens in Scripture. One where the first Adam chose not to do the Father's will and the second where the second Adam, Jesus of Nazareth chose to do the Father's will. The Garden is descriptive of our lives as well. We desire God's will, but when it comes time to pursue Him deeply and pray earnestly, we succumb to other distractions. Our spirit is

willing, but our flesh is weak. The Garden represents a crossroads for Jesus and also for us. In order to prepare to celebrate Easter we must come to the Garden and choose our direction.

Matthew 26:30, 36-46 tells us what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane

## **1. Introduction: Jesus Entered the Garden .**

The Garden of Gethsemane embodies the Prologue to The Passion. The Passion Week as well as the entire life of Jesus was filled with several events that all come to a head in The Garden, where Jesus would face His true mission and embrace the Father's complete will for His providential eternal destiny. As He entered the Garden, it represented a long, difficult day, at the end of a long, difficult week, in the challenging life of Jesus.

The Sunday before, crowds cheered Him as He triumphantly entered Jerusalem. His name was on every one's lips. Thousands upon thousands spoke His praises. Everyone wanted to see Him, to be near Him, to be present, to see perhaps whether He would do another miracle, or heal the sick. On that day Jesus accepted their praises, knowing that before the end of the week they would all turn against Him.

On Monday, Jesus sees the height of corruption in the temple area. There, merchants and moneychangers took up the whole of the court of the gentiles for their businesses, leaving no place for those outside of the covenant, those seekers who did not grow up knowing the law of Moses, to approach God and pray. With a handmade whip, Jesus drove out the merchants, and over turned the moneychangers tables crying, "My Father's house shall be called a house of prayer for all Nations...but you have made it a den of robbers"

On Tuesday, the chief priests and teachers of the law began harassing Him in earnest. As He was giving to the people some final glimpses of the kingdom of God before His suffering, His enemies approached. "Who do you think you are? By what authority are you doing these things?" It was a question easily answered, but do you feel the animosity, the hatred, the venom, evident in those who asked it. They were the ones who, by years of long study, should have recognized Him, and welcomed Him. Instead they sought to trip Him up and trap Him. Before the week was over they would cast their vote to have Him put to death.

On Wednesday, one of His closest friends, one who was with Him for three years, one who had access to the deepest longings of His heart, agreed to betray Him to His enemies. This betrayal, by a close friend, was not because of some ideological difference. Judas didn't betray Jesus because he thought our Lord was doing something improper, or to keep Jesus from spreading heresy. Christ's enemies, at least, had that excuse. No, this betrayal was for money. For 30 pieces of silver, the price of a common slave.

On Thursday Jesus had one final meal with His disciples. He had one last night, one last time to try to teach and prepare His closest followers what was coming. He knew their love for Him was weak. He knew all of them would be scattered, and even Peter, His closest friend, would deny three times that he even knew the Lord. He watched as Judas left the table, and knew that in a few hours he would return with a band of soldiers to have Him arrested. He knew that in spite of all His efforts, His disciples only just barely understood the significance of this night, and had only the slightest perception of what He was about to do for them. He knew that in many ways, though they had been with Him bodily, He was very much alone. It was in this way, that Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane.

In the same way, we need to come to an experiential awareness of what the cross means in our lives today. It is similar to what Jesus faced in the Garden. This is where we see another Biblical picture of "Jesus Journey to the Cross" as revealed in Philippians 2:5-11. This is a snapshot of Jesus journey to the cross and your journey will mirror Jesus Journey. Our cross will correlate with His cross. That is to say, we need to come to an experiential awareness of the cross through, humility, suffering, and brokenness. His Passion began in the Garden and that is where ours will begin as well.

The point we need to see today is, when God is breaking us, we need to give up all rights during that process of brokenness. We have to give up all rights to defend ourselves, because it's God who's at work in us, it's He who is breaking us. When Jesus went to the cross, He had to give up all rights to be accepted. He had to be willing to be rejected. When Jesus went to the cross He went through tremendous rejection. In fact, a lot of the people turned on Jesus because He wasn't fulfilling their dreams of rescuing them from the Romans. When Jesus went to the cross He had to leave behind His mother and brothers. And the three friends who went to pray with Him fell asleep on Him. He was misunderstood and even when He was dying, He cried out, "My God, my God, Why hast Thou forsaken me?" He felt rejected by His own Father.

What Jesus did there helps us understand the Prologue to The Passion.

## **2. In the Garden: Jesus Pursued Relationships .**

It was in the garden that Jesus pursued relationships (Matthew 26:36-38). First, He drew friends around Him in times of trouble. In this, the most difficult day in His life, Jesus asked His friends to stay with Him. We tend to withdraw. While we may feel alone, don't go into the Garden alone. It is a time when you most need to be with the Body of Christ. Take the risk of asking someone to share your anguish and pain. Identify someone or a few people to come with you in the Garden, the time of your deepest sorrows.

Second, He spoke directly to his friends when they disappointed Him (Matthew 26:40). People don't automatically know what's going on inside of you. Tell them directly. We think that if people really loved us they would read our minds. But Jesus, who had no problem with communicating clearly, told them directly of His disappointment.

When you need them the most sometimes your friends will hurt you. Maybe they're going through some rough times themselves. Maybe, as Luke 22:45 says, perhaps through sorrow they are passing through their own grief, or Garden of Gethsemane. But for whatever reason they might disappoint you, don't be silent. Talk to them. They really do want to be there for you – don't give up.

Last, He continued to pursue them even after they failed again and again (Matthew 26:43-45). We tend to give up on people, especially when we really need them and they're not there for us. Even after failing Him again, Jesus continued to pursue them, continued to give them an opportunity to comfort Him. This unity of spirit, this companionship was something very important to Jesus (John 17:20-24).

## **3. In the Garden, Jesus Persisted in Prayer .**

In the Garden, Jesus was Persistent in Prayer (Matthew 26: 39, 42, 44). Notice the different ways Jesus prayed.

\* **Privately** (Matthew 26:39): He found a special place to be alone with God.

\* **Intimately** (Mark 14:36): He used the term "Abba", or "Daddy," A Term of endearment. Jesus and God were on intimate terms, coming from long familiarity. Don't face your Personal Garden unless you and God are on a first name basis.

\* **Repeatedly** (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44). He kept going back to God over and over again, through the night. Persistence is a common theme in the Bible's teaching on prayer. Remember the parable in Luke 18:1-5 of the Persistent Widow? How about 2 Corinthians 12 where Paul described his thorn in the flesh? Pray until something happens, until God specifically says no or until you get an answer. Jesus prayed all night and He didn't leave the Garden until He knew God has heard Him.

\* **With the power of God** (Luke 22:42-43): An angel came to strengthen Him.

\* **More and more earnestly** (Luke 22:44).

\* **Until the moment of His passion** (Luke 22:45-48).

Some of you today may be facing the most difficult times of your life. As you enter your Garden, keep pursuing relationships and keep praying.

## Conclusion

This Morning in Bible Study we talked about Victorious Faith.

### ***Do Not Lose Faith!***

## **The Cross**

What comes to mind when you hear that word? A decorative altar ornament? Something that rests on top of a church steeple? A piece of jewelry hanging around someone's neck?

Mention the word "cross" to the people of Jesus' day and a very different image came to mind. Too many times they had seen the road leading into a city lined with stakes and the enemies of Rome nailed to them. In Jesus' day, more than 100 men had been crucified at Caesarea Philippi. Crucifixions on a smaller scale were also a common sight. It has been estimated that perhaps some 30,000 crucifixions occurred under Roman authority during the lifetime of Christ. If Jesus was out to win a lot of followers, He picked the one image that would turn away most people. When He said "take up a cross," they knew exactly what He meant. It was the most painful, humiliating and disgraceful thing of Jesus' day and the one thing that everyone wanted to avoid.

The cross was the ultimate symbol of shame and defeat. It was the Roman form of capital punishment that sought not only to kill the person but to strip them of every ounce of dignity on their way to death. They did this through public crucifixions on the most traveled roads into a city so the most people possible would see the criminals being crucified and the agony and pain they suffered which often lasted for days.

The Romans thought the very word cross was obscene, never to be uttered in daily conversation. It was considered to be such a terrible death that Roman citizens were exempt from crucifixion, no matter their crime. So the cross was the worst thing imaginable and it's shocking to say the least that Jesus used this imagery for following Him. In Jesus' day, it was the greatest symbol of shame. But Jesus changed all of that. Two thousand years later, the cross is no longer a symbol of shame and humiliation but an enduring symbol of sacrificial love, grace and forgiveness.

But the cross is not just a symbol we look to or a reminder of where we have placed our faith. It's not just what Jesus did for us. It is what Jesus invites us to. It is a way of life for those following Jesus. The Latin word for cross is "crux" and means "a vital, basic or pivotal point." It's the moment when everything changes, and it is the point of no return because when it happens, there is no going back. On a cosmic level, the cross is the vessel through which God's redemptive love was revealed to the world. But on a personal level, the cross is this intersection where when a person decides to follow Jesus and one life ends and another

begins in Jesus.

Over the next few weeks I challenge you to consider the cross. May your journey take you TO the cross where we observe the sacrifice our Savior made for us. From that may we better understand the way OF the cross as we desire to sacrifice our lives and surrender to the perfect will of God. The Easter Season always holds great promise. Don't miss it!

God Bless You!  
Bro. Allan

## **Opportunities For Service**

### **Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

#### **Sunday, March 26, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, March 29**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study ....6:30 pm

Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Thursday, March 30**

VBS Workers Clinic... FBC Saint Joseph... .... 6:30-9:00 pm

#### **Sunday, April 2, 2017**

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatirck, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

#### **Monday, April 3**

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, April 5**

Youth Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir.....7:30 pm

#### **Thursday, April 6**

G Team.....6:30 pm

#### **Saturday, April 8**

Keyboard Festival 9:00-Noon

## **Up-Coming Events.....**

**March 26 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**March 30 — VBS Worker's Clinic FBC, St. Joseph 6:30-9:00 pm**

**April 3 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm**

**April 8 — Keyboard Festival 9:00am—Noon**

**April 9 — Palm Sunday**

**April 12 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am**

**April 16 — Easter**

**April 23 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

## **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

### **Sunday Nights**

Since today was the service at Diversicare, we will not have evening worship tonight at 6:30 pm. Please join us next week.

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We have begun a new study entitled **Grace**. This week we view the fourth session of the study by Max Lucado as we journey to discover the depth of God's grace—*more than you deserve, greater than you can imagine, and all that you need*. Hope to see you here at 6:30 pm!

### **Diversicare Nursing Home**

**Today, March 26, 2017**

**2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

### **Food Kitchen**

*We will serve Monday, April 3, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.*

### **North American Missions And Annie Armstrong**

#### **Easter Offering**

**Envelopes are in the pews  
for your convenience.**

**Our goal: \$1,500.00**

**To Date: \$ 198.00**

## **Keyboard Festival**

*April 8th*

**Calvary Baptist Church**

**9 am—Noon**

## **Thunder on the Mountain Rally**

**April 28-30, 2017**

Be watching for more  
details to come.

## ***Easter Schedule***

Please remember that Easter is, Sunday, April 16. Be watching for an Easter schedule of events for that morning.

### ***For the Record-***

#### **Attendance: March 19, 2017**

Sunday School.....	27
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	27
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	42
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	17

#### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,786.88
Annie Armstrong .....	\$ 198.00

#### **Offering Received by Mail:**

#### **April Counting Team:**

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

#### **April Van Driver:**

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

#### **April Member Birthdays:**

05... Datha Dillon

13... Alice Coats

15... Larry McKahan  
25... Jo Mayse  
29... Lois Pace  
30... Daniel Waters  
30... Nikki Garber

### **April Anniversaries**

Joe and Pam Battreal

April 17, 1999

Bill and Juanita Haskins

April 17, 1948

Joseph and Alice Coats

April 29, 2000

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Don and Marcia —Don's Health

Schottels traveling

Datha Dillon and family

Troy Griswold—surgery recovery

Rev. A. B. Brown

Tracy Maisel and Tim Ford

Juanita and Bill Haskins—adjustments

Tim Izer

Gary & Peggy Fewins, Byron & Joel

George Ferbert—strength

Nellie Reynolds

Larry Danner—cancer treatment

Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment

Jim Winans at home

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Betty Campbell

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

LoLeta Middleton—strength

Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—

Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris

Richardson's sisters

Madeline Swink Ann Riddle

Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan

Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds

Jozy Winans Kenny Duty

Kevin Duty Buddy Means

Bill Haskins Debbie Sands

Pat Puckett Judy Anderson

Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane

Carolyn Houts

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church

David and Deborah Grace

Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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