

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . .”
John 1:14

All are welcome at the manger.



SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

“Final Words”

Luke 24:44-49

Dec. 8, 2024

Passion Week

1 st month of Hebrew Calendar. (Exodus 12:2) (March/April)							
		#1		#2		Sunday	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Jesus arrived in Bethany yesterday (Saturday), and Jesus and Lazarus in Bethany, which leaders (John 12:9-20).	10 Select the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:3) "On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves..." Jesus' triumphal Jerusalem on a donkey colt a.k.a. Palm Monday (John 12:12) also see Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:9-20; John 12:9-20)	11 Jesus curses the fig tree (Matthew 21:18-22) Jesus cleanses the Temple again, He overturned overcame and prevented people from using the temple as a shortcut Jesus' conversation with the scribes and Pharisees on the Temple grounds (John 12:20-36) God the Father audibly speaks, and everyone hears (John 12:28-33) Jesus visits the temple, looked around, and heals many Jesus returns to Bethany for the evening	12 Withered Fig tree is seen again (Mark 11) Jesus teaches all day in the Temple grounds. Jewish leaders official challenge of Christ's authority Jesus tells parables to the scribes and Pharisees on the Temple grounds Jesus' conversation with the scribes and Pharisees on the Temple grounds (John 12:20-36) God the Father audibly speaks, and everyone hears (John 12:28-33) Jesus talks about His coming and the unbelief of the Jews	13 Peter and John prepare for the Passover meal. Note: Jews from Galilee (northern Israel) return on Thursday after sunset. Jesus & disciples Last Supper The Upper Room Discourse and Jesus High Priestly Prayer Jesus and Disciples go to Mount of Olives (Garden of Gethsemane) overnight to pray. See chapters Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13-18	14 Early am arrest of Jesus 6 Trials of Jesus (3 Jewish then 3 Roman) The Passover day. Jews from Judea (southern Israel) would celebrate Passover on Friday. Jesus is crucified, Jesus' body put in Joseph's tomb before sunset. Day 1.	15 Jesus' body in the tomb Day 2. Jewish Feast of Unwavering bread continues for 7 days	16 Jesus' body in the tomb Day 3. Jesus is resurrected
Note 1: Biblical days don't start/end at midnight. They start at sunrise and end at sunset/sunrise. Note 2: For details on what happened on any day and Friday see the below graphic.							

Luke 24:44-49

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45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,
47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 "You are witnesses of these things.

49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

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6 truths that will equip the disciples to reach the world -

1. THEIR SOURCE OF TRUTH: OLD TESTAMENT.

- Jesus had been with them 3 years.
- Jesus had fulfilled what the OT had revealed about Him.
- OT:
 - Law of Moses – Genesis – Deut.
 - Prophets – Joshua – Esther, Isaiah – Malachi
 - Psalms – represents the hymnic and wisdom books – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecc1. Song of Sol.
- This was the source of truth from which they were to proclaim Christ.
- Could you lead someone to salvation in Christ from only the OT?

- Messiah would come through the line of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; cf. Gal. 3:16).
- He would come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; cf. Rev. 5:5).
- He would come from the line of David (2 Sam. 7).
- He would be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14).
- He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- He would be betrayed by a close, trusted friend (Ps. 41:9).
- He would be beaten, spit on, and have His beard pulled out (Isa. 50:6; Mic. 5:1).
- The soldiers would gamble for His clothing (Ps. 22:18).
- He would be crucified (Ps. 22).
- He would be pierced (Zech. 12:10).
- His death would be substitutionary (Isa. 53).
- He would rise from the dead (Isa. 53:10; Ps. 16:8-11).

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Ps 119:18

8 **Open my eyes**, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

Ps 119:130

130 The **unfolding of Your words gives light**; It gives understanding to the simple.

Ps 119:34

34 **Give me understanding**, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.

Ps 119:73

73 **Give me understanding**, that I may learn Your commandments.

Ps 119:125

25 I am Your servant; **give me understanding**, That I may know Your testimonies.

Ps 119:144

144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; **Give me understanding** that I may live.

1 Cor 2:12-13

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those **taught by the Spirit**, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

2 Corinthians 3:14-16

14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, **the veil is taken away**.

Revelation 3:18

18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and [that] the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes **so that you may see**.

Job 33:16

16 Then **He opens the ears of men**, And seals their instruction,

45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

2. THEIR NEED: UNDERSTANDING.

"understand" – συνιέναι – to bring together or to put together.

- Jesus helped them "bring it all together" from the OT.
- It is one thing to know about the Scriptures and quite another thing to understand the Scriptures.

1 Cor 2:14

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the **One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ**.

Acts 16:14

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and **the Lord opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 26:18

18 (Paul sent to Jews and Gentiles) **to open their eyes** so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Eph 1:18-19

18 **I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Note the use of the OT in Acts:

- Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, Peter cited Joel 2:28-32 and Psalm 16:8-11,
- Speaking to the Sanhedrin, Peter cited Psalm 118:22 (Acts 4:10-11).
- Both Stephen (Acts 7) and Philip (Acts 8:26-35) used extensive knowledge of the OT.

- The Bible is the only book where the author is present whenever it is read by a believer.
- It is not true that this verse teaches that only the “church” is can give the correct interpretation of the Scriptures because the average person in the pew cannot understand it.

“He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs.”

- Alexander Maclaren

“You can see many things when you come to the Word without God’s opening the eyes of your heart. You can see words and grammatical constructions. You can see logical connections. You can see historical facts. You can see an author’s rational intention. You can see some human emotions. None of that requires that God open your eyes in a special spiritual way. But what you cannot see is the spiritual beauty of God and his Son and their work in the world. You cannot see that God is infinitely desirable above all things. A blind person cannot see the sun, though he can know many facts about the sun and pass a test in astronomy with a score higher than a person who can see the sun. Knowing about and knowing by sight are not the same. Knowing that honey is sweet and tasting honey are not the same.In Ephesians 1:18 Paul prays this way. He says, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling.” In other words, “I’ve taught you these things and you have received them with your external senses, but unless you perceive the glory of them with your spiritual sense (“the eyes of your heart”) you will not be changed. (See also Ephesians 3:14–19; Colossians 1:9 with Col 3:16). Now these are Christians he is writing to, which shows that we need to go on praying until we get to heaven for spiritual eyes to see.”

- John Piper

“Once your eyes are opened and your heart is stirred by claiming and embracing the Word of God, your mind is going to be enlightened. Psalm 119:73 says, “Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding so that I can learn Your commands.” How often in my sermon preparations have I put down my pencil and bowed my head to say, “O, my God, help me to understand this. Lord, give me Your understanding.” When we pray like this, our hearts are moved and our minds are enlightened to grasp, apply, and understand the Word of God.”

- Adrian Rogers

Luke 24:44-49

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49 “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

“We will never see the beauty of spiritual reality without God’s illumination. We will never see the wonder and glory of what the Word teaches without God’s opening the eyes of our hearts and giving us a spiritual sense of these things. The point of teaching this and knowing this is to make us desperate for God and hungry for God, and to set us to pleading and crying out to God for his help in reading the Bible.”

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3. THEIR MESSAGE: THE GOSPEL.

- Right away Jesus shows the disciples the gospel message from the OT.
- The gospel is Christ's death burial and resurrection.

1 Cor 15:1-4

15 Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

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4. THEIR MISSION: THE WORLD.

- The result of what Christ did on the cross should move us to repent.

"repent" – change your thinking about your sin.

Matt 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt 3:1,2

1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 16:8

8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

2 Tim 2:25

25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

Acts 11:18

18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

- So man needs to repent and receive forgiveness.

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4. THEIR MISSION: THE WORLD.

"in His Name" – by Christ's authority which includes all that He is and all He has done.

Mal 1:11-12

11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, **My name** will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts.

Acts 4:12

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name** under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

"**all the nations**" - that is the mission field for all of us missionaries. Every believer is a missionary.

- The disciples were to start in Jerusalem. Difficult place.

Rev 5:8-9

8 and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the **prayers of the saints.**

9 And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood **from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**"

Rev 7:9

9 After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues,** standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

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5. THEIR RESPONSIBILITY: GO!

- The disciples had witnessed it all and therefore were responsible for spreading the good news.

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 **Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always,** even to the end of the age."

- God is always seeking man with the invitation to "come" –

Gen 3:9

9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "**Where are you?**"

Rev 22:17

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "**Come.**" And let the one who hears say, "**Come.**" And let the one who is thirsty **come;** let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

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6. THEIR POWER: THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- To carry all of this out, Jesus says you need to be super-charged with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Do you mean I am not doing this on my own? Nope.
- Do you mean there is another power at work when I am sharing the gospel? Yup.

Acts 1:8

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- In OT the Holy Spirit was "with" believers and He will now be "in" believers.

Joel 2:28-29

28 "It will come about after this

That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;

And your sons and daughters will prophesy,

Your old men will dream dreams,

Your young men will see visions.

29 "Even on the male and female servants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

"Faithful witnesses don't make up a story; they tell what they have seen and heard. And what they saw and heard in Jesus Christ was the promise of the Holy Spirit, a promise made to the them (the disciples) in the upper room before the crucifixion "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides WITH you and will be IN you (as fulfilled at Pentecost)." (Jn 14:16,17). This was completely in line with what God had revealed in His written Word. (Jn 15:5 and Acts 1:8!)"

- Steven Cole

Evangelism is sharing Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and leaving the results to God.

Application

1. True Christianity is based on the historical facts found in both the OT and the NT.
2. We must not only know the Scriptures but understand the Scriptures. Do you pray for understanding?
3. Can you give the gospel with a Bible? Without a Bible? With your testimony?
4. Do you understand your responsibility as a missionary?
5. Does having the Holy Spirit in your life make a difference in your boldness to share Christ with others?