

Countdown to the CROSS

Palm Sunday

On Sunday, 5 days before the CROSS, [Jesus entered Jerusalem as a King.](#)

📖 Matthew 21:1–7 (NIV) “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.”

📖 Matthew 21:8–9 (NIV) “A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

On Monday, 4 days before the CROSS, [Jesus cleared the Temple \(again\).](#)

📖 Matthew 21:12–13 (NIV) “Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” He said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’”

📖 John 2:13–16 (NIV) “When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So He made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves He said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’”

On Tuesday, 3 days before the CROSS, [Jesus taught publicly for the last time.](#)

The Lord’s Last Three Lessons


1. The Parable of [Ten Virgins](#) (Matthew 25:1-13)
2. The Parable of [Talents](#) (Matthew 25:14-30)
3. The Parable of [Sheep and the Goats](#) (Matthew 25:31-46)


On Wednesday, 2 days before the CROSS, [Jesus was betrayed by a close friend.](#)


📖 Matthew 26:14–16 (NIV) “Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.”


📖 Luke 22:1–5 (NIV84) “Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then [Satan entered Judas](#), called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money.”

On Thursday, 1 day before the CROSS, [Jesus needed His friends.](#)


 John 13:1–5 (NIV) *“It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. ² The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.”*

 Mark 14:22–26 (NIV) *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” ²³ Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” He said to them. ²⁵ “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”*

 Luke 22:40–44 (NIV) *“On reaching the place, He said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”*

 Mark 14:43–46 (NIV) *“Just as He was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested Him.”*

Friday: [Jesus was beaten, killed, and buried in a burrowed tomb.](#)

 Matthew 20:28 (NIV) *“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

Digging Deeper: *If this was your last week on earth, how would you spend it? Is there anything in your life that you know God disapproves of? How is our prayer life? In what ways are you wisely investing your talents? What is the most recent thing that you have done for someone in need? How does knowing that Jesus understands what you go through make you feel? Who are you going to invite to Easter services?*

