

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

April 7, 2020

Well, this is going to be a Holy Week to remember, is it not? Nobody alive today has ever seen such a week before, and congregations the world over are having to observe Holy Week worship in ways most of us haven't done before.



We've had good "attendance" at our *YouTube* and *Facebook* services thus far, and the five of us who are putting them together (Andrew, Jenetha, J.W., Rebecca, and I) are having an interesting time as we learn how to improve what we're able to offer online. The services that remain this week will all be streamed at the time they would normally occur, as will our normal worship during however many weeks of quarantine remain. Here are those days and times.

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: 7:00 p.m.

SonRise: 7:30 a.m.

Resurrection: 9:50 a.m.

Search for "Columbia Baptist Fellowship" on either *YouTube* or *Facebook*. And it wouldn't hurt to subscribe to those feeds. Plus, if you haven't texted "member" to (443) 234-0801, you're missing important communications from the office

This *Laptop* includes perhaps the most common understanding of what happened during the week of Jesus' Passion and when it happened, though there are other ways of putting things together. I encourage you to add these Scripture readings to your personal and family observance of the week.

Some liturgical churches have observances on "Holy Saturday," but we have not been accustomed to doing that. This week, though, I invite you to observed a focused time of prayer at some time on Saturday. I'm going to suggest 1-2 p.m., but you can do what works for you. (Thanks to Dawn Joppy for this idea!)

If an hour seems too long, try 30 minutes, 20 minutes, 15 minutes, or even 10 minutes. Turn everything off and just be in the presence of the Lord. Here are a few suggestions of what to include in your prayer:

1. Pray for the physicians, nurses, and staff in our congregation.
2. Pray for the physicians, nurses, and staff in our hospital.
3. Pray for the physicians, nurses, and staff in ALL hospitals.
4. Pray for the military reservists who have been activated for this crisis.
5. Pray for our Village leaders and County Executive.
6. Pray for our Governor . . . for all Governors and Mayors.
7. Pray for the leaders of the CDC and other Federal agencies.
8. Pray for our President and for the Congress.
9. Pray for your family, both near and far.
10. Pray for those who are producing ventilators and masks.
11. Pray for those who are trying to create a vaccine.
12. Pray for those who are testing positive today.

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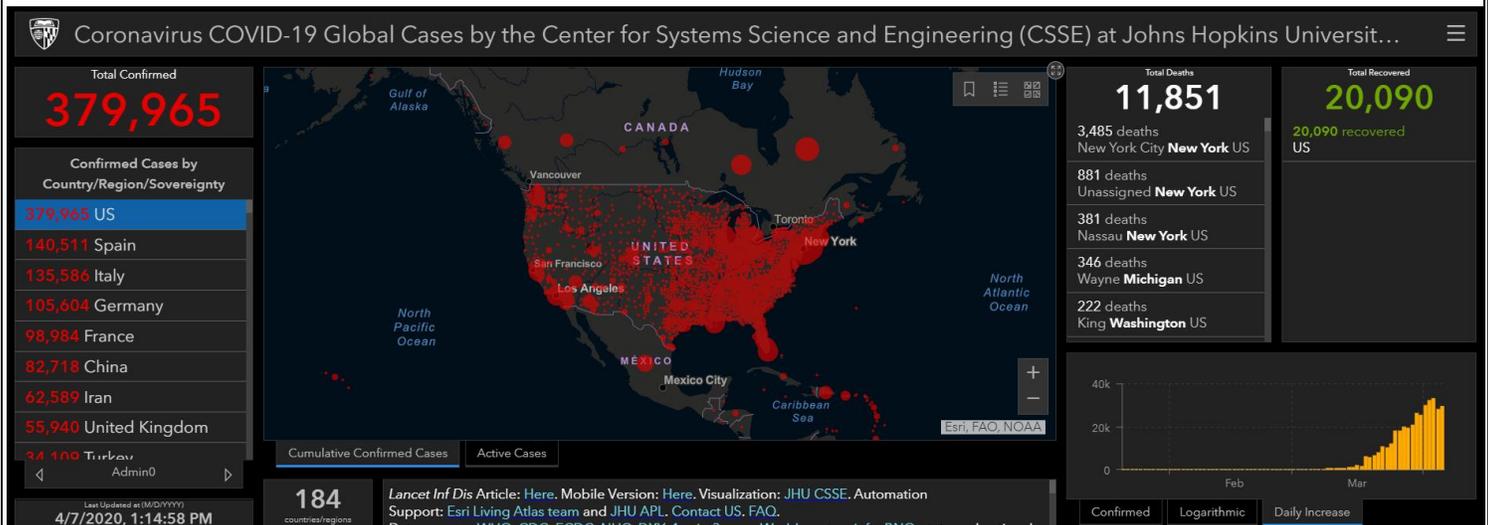
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13. Pray for those who have already been bereaved.
14. Pray for those who will be bereaved today.
15. Pray for those who are in ICUs today.
16. Pray for overwhelmed funeral directors.
17. Pray for our Church Staff and Church Leaders.
18. Pray for other CBFers both near and far.
19. Pray that God will teach us new things about God's Faithfulness.
20. Pray for opportunities to tell others about your Faith.
21. Pray for CBFers recently bereaved.
22. Pray for CBFers in the hospital.
23. Pray for CBFers who are lonely and isolated.
24. Pray for persons who have lost their employment, and for their families.
25. Pray for persons who are trapped at home in abusive relationships.
26. Pray for parents who are trapped at home with their children.
27. Pray for children who are trapped at home with their parents.
28. Pray for farms that have lost most of the workers needed for harvest.
29. Pray for the drivers that are bringing essential things to us.
30. Pray for the workers who are operating essential businesses.

The list goes on and on . . . and on.
 That should be enough to keep us busy for an hour!
 And we don't have to wait until Saturday!!

Pray!

Dave



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Passion Week

You may wish to read the Scripture listed as part of your meditation.¹

Sunday (Palm Sunday): Day of Triumph. On Sunday, Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem to the shouts of praise from the crowds. The crowd spread leafy palm branches on the ground as they welcomed Jesus to the city (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19).

Monday: Day of Authority. On Monday, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the merchants and their customers, saying, “*The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a place of prayer, but you have turned it into a den of thieves!’*” After cleansing the Temple, Jesus healed the blind and the lame and received the praise of children, after which he returned to Bethany for the night (Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:12-19; Luke 19:45-48). John described another cleansing of the Temple early in his Gospel (2:13-22).

Tuesday: Day of Conflict. On Tuesday, Jesus returned to the Temple to teach the people. The bulk of his teaching was aimed at religious figures, about whom he told parables, confounded their questions with both questions and answers, and delivered a series of woes. Late on Tuesday, overlooking the city from the Mount of Olives, he taught about the future coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 21:18-26:5; Mark 11:20-13:37; Luke 20:1-21:38; John 12:20-50).

Wednesday: Day of Preparation. On Wednesday a woman anointed Jesus with expensive ointment for his burial as he was having dinner in Bethany while Judas made preparations to betray him (Matthew 26:6-16; Mark 14:1-11; Luke relates a similar story in 7:36-50; John relates a similar story with nearly identical detail in 12:1-8 before Jesus’ triumphal entry).

Thursday (Maundy Thursday): Day of Fellowship. On Thursday afternoon, the fateful 24-hour period began. Jesus sent some disciples into Jerusalem to plan for the Passover meal he would eat with all of them that evening. At that meal, Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and ate the Passover, after which he went to Gethsemane. Peter, James, and John, who accompanied him to the garden, failed him there, while Judas betrayed Jesus and led the captors to make the arrest. Late Thursday night and early Friday morning, Caiaphas and the Jewish leaders questioned Jesus, rejected his responses, and delivered him to Pilate. Peter denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:17-75; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:1-71; John 13:1-18:27).

“Maundy” comes from the Latin “*mondé*,” which means “command”; i.e., “*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another*” (John 13:34).

Friday (Good Friday): Day of Suffering. Very early on Friday morning, Jesus was handed over to Pilate and tried. At the crowd’s insistence, based on the promptings of the chief priests, Barabbas was released and Jesus was scourged, ridiculed, and beaten.

¹ While there are other possible chronologies, this is the most commonly accepted one.

After the bitter journey of the *Via Dolorosa*, “the way of tears,” Jesus was crucified at about 9 a.m. From noon to 3 p.m., a God-sent darkness covered the earth. At about 3 p.m., as the Passover lambs were being killed, a great earthquake shook the city. The curtain separating the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom, and the whole cosmos was shaken to its foundation as its Creator died on the Cross—“*the Lamb who was killed before the world was made*” (Revelation 13:8).

Jesus spoke **Seven Words from the Cross**, the first three of which concerned others. The last four were about him:

1. The Word of Forgiveness: “*Father, forgive these people, because they don’t know what they are doing*” (Luke 23:34).
2. The Word of Salvation: “*I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise*” (Luke 23:43).
3. The Word of Affection: “*Woman, he is your son . . . She is your mother*” (John 19:26-27).
4. The Word of Desolation: “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).
5. The Word of Suffering: “*I am thirsty*” (John 19:28).
6. The Word of Triumph: “*It is finished!*” (John 19:30).
7. The Word of Release: “*Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!*” (Luke 23:46).

As Jesus died, a Roman soldier declared his true identity. Jesus’ body was removed from the Cross and was buried in a new tomb prior to the beginning of the Sabbath at 6 p.m. (Matthew 27:1-61; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23:1-56; John 18:28-19:42).

Saturday (Holy Saturday): Day of Silence. Jesus’ body was in the tomb in anticipation of the Resurrection. The leading priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to approve a guard at the tomb to prevent the disciples from stealing Jesus’ body. In the evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Salome (Jesus’ aunt, his mother’s sister, and the mother of James and John), and Mary the mother of James went out and purchased burial spices to put on Jesus’ body on Sunday morning (Matthew 27:62-66; Mark 16:1).

Sunday (Resurrection Sunday): Day of Victory. On Resurrection Morning, God raised Jesus from the dead as a vindication of his ministry and a final validation of his true identity. Jesus’ body simply vanished through the grave clothes, leaving them intact, as though they still wrapped his body. Women were the first to discover Jesus’ Resurrection and to bear witness to its reality. Women were also the first to meet the risen Christ. Simon Peter and John investigated at once and confirmed that the tomb was empty. Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus on Sunday evening, and must also have appeared to Peter late in the day before the disciples from Emmaus returned to Jerusalem (Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:2-14; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-23).