

"PASSION IN GRACE ALONE!" - MARCH 28, 2021
PALM SUNDAY/THE PASSION OF OUR LORD
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; MATTHEW 21:1-11; MARK 15:1-39
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

“Where did that come from?” Has something ever changed so quickly it surprised you? Has someone ever done something so inconsistent, so unexpected, you did not see it coming? Where did the Palm Sunday celebration go? Did we miss something? How did the faithful ‘Hosanna’ voices change so quickly to ‘Crucify’? This week is about change. This week changes just about everything. Jesus came with passion not to change salvation, but to complete it. Jesus came to endure the passion of his suffering so no matter how loud or how often ‘Crucify him’ is shouted, God’s grace alone would shout louder and longer. Jesus’ passion is to change judgment into forgiveness, to change death into life, to change despair into hope, to change searching into truth! As we share Holy Week, let us passionately trust The One who is faithfully passionate and gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love! Journey this week, all eternity, in the passion of God’s grace alone!

1. Sometimes things happen so quickly, so unexpectedly, so inconsistently, that we find ourselves asking, ‘Where did that come from?’ ‘Was I suppose to see that coming?’ ‘Did I miss something?’ Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5, 7-8; Mark 15:13-15, 31-32
 - A. Where did Palm Sunday go? It was here a moment ago.
 - B. Where did Judas and Peter and the others go? They were here a moment ago.
 - C. Where did I go? I was here a moment ago.

2. Jesus comes to change things, to makes things happen quickly. Jesus came with passion not to change salvation, but to complete God’s gifts of salvation, forgiveness, hope and so much more, in God’s grace alone, in Jesus Christ! Matthew 21:3; Philippians 2:7-8; Mark15:1-39
 - A. Jesus endures the passion of his suffering to beat suffering, to change what needed changing, to turn our heads and hearts, to help us see the unexpected, to know and believe forever: ‘Where did that come from?’ God’s grace in Christ alone!

- i. Christ alone endures the passion of his suffering to change death into life.
 - ii. Christ alone endures the passion of his suffering to change judgment into forgiveness.
 - iii. Christ alone endures the passion of his suffering to change placing guilt and blame into accepting grace!
 - B. Christ alone endures the passion of his suffering so we know where grace comes from, where life comes from, where God's need for us comes from, where passion and truth come from!
3. Return to The Lord your God! God in grace is passionate about you! Jesus endures the passion of his suffering, so no matter how loud or how often 'Crucify him' is shouted, God's grace would shout louder and longer! This week, stay close to The One who passionately stays close to you in Christ alone! Stay here and keep watch! Know and believe, where it all comes from; you are alive and anew in the passion of God's grace alone! Philippians 2:9-11; Mark 15:38-39