



*"Easter is not a day – it is a season, and a way of life!"*

We are Easter people. We have the privilege to know and reflect on the death of Jesus because we know that he lives - we know the end of the story! So why bother dwelling on Jesus' life and death, especially in those last days? What can we learn from his suffering and death that might inform our daily living?

Paul instructs that we are to take up our own cross daily. We are crucified with Christ. Colossians 3:3 says, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." This indicates that in order to participate in the resurrection – in our own spiritual life after death, we must also participate in a spiritual death. There can be no resurrection without death – a sobering but significant truth.

What does spiritual death look like? It looks like the last days of Jesus – celebrating his life, purging sinful behavior, taking his teachings to heart, surrendering to the Father's will, accepting our cup of suffering, embracing the heart of a servant, bearing up under injustice, saying no to retaliation, and finally, *dying* – to self, to our own way, to a life of bondage and fear. Let Jesus lead you through his death to life this week!

Use this guide to take you through the events of Jesus' last days on earth. Allow time to reflect on the questions provided.

### Palm Sunday

- **Read:** Luke 19:28-44, Zechariah 9:9
- **Reflect:** How often do you praise God for coming into your life? How has he made your life better?

### Monday

- **Read:** Luke 19:45-48
- **Reflect:** Think about your body as the temple. What does Jesus need to clean from your temple?

### Tuesday

- **Read:** Luke 20:1-19
- **Reflect:** The Parable of the Tenants is a picture of Jesus' rejection by humankind. Is there any aspect of Jesus' teaching that you might be inclined to reject?

### Wednesday

- **Read:** Luke 22:1-6
- **Reflect:** Jesus was not the Messiah the Jews were expecting. Do you have unrealistic expectations for Jesus? How did this lead to Judas' betrayal?

### Maundy Thursday

- **Read:** Luke 22:7-46
- **Reflect:** Can you spend one hour in prayer today? Reflect on the last supper and Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives. What is the cup you must bear?

### Good Friday

- **Read:** Luke 22:47-23:48
- **Reflect:** What stood out to you as you read this long passage? Talk it over with Jesus giving thanks to him.

### Holy Saturday

- **Read:** Luke 23:50-56
- **Reflect:** Spend part of this day in silent reflection. What feelings or insights have you experienced this week?

*Prepare your heart to worship tomorrow!*