
Joyful in Hope – Day Seventeen – April 6, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:9

We're being told that the week ahead of us is critical for our nation, and for the world, as we deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Let's continue to pray for healing and cooperation. Let's continue to pray for the caregivers and first responders. Let's continue to pray for world leaders and for the elderly, for those who are in isolation, and for those who still think they're immune.

I can't help but think how the events of this week, nearly two thousand years, were also critical for our world, as Jesus prepared to take on the pandemic of sin and separation that had plagued humankind since the Fall.

Over the next few days, let's take a look at the events of the last week of Jesus' life, leading up to his resurrection. Yesterday, our Worship focused on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday. That evening, we're told that Jesus retired to Bethany with his disciples, probably spending the next few nights in the home of his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary. We're not told, but I suspect they made a stop in Bethphage, so Jesus could return the donkey(s) to their owner, because that's what he said he would do.

The following information comes from the website: learnreligions.com.

On Monday, Jesus Clears the Temple

The following morning, Jesus returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, he cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel. Others believe the symbolism extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine faith is more than just outward religiosity; true, living faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.

When Jesus arrived at the Temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves" (Luke 19:46).

On Monday evening Jesus stayed in Bethany again, probably in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Monday's events are recorded in Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17.

Prayers Please.

- Ron Janulis told me that Phuong's doctor appointment was good and bad. He didn't give me any more details, but I'll talk to him later. Please continue to pray for Phuong.
- Don Smith is still in the hospital and has a touch of pneumonia, so he is back on antibiotics. He should go to rehab in the next few days.

***May the Lord bless you, and keep you,
and make his face to shine upon you,
and give you peace.***
