

Joyful in Hope – 21 – April 10, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

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

Dear Heritage Family,

I'm getting today's encouragement out to you early because I'm asking you to stop whatever you are doing right now, and pray.

Some of you may already be aware that our dear brother, Don Smith, passed away last night at Beaumont Hospital. Patty reports that his passing was very peaceful, and he is no longer in pain. Janet is at peace, but needs our prayers and support. We will update everyone concerning arrangements. There is a lot of uncertainty right now due to restrictions.

Also, Phuong was scheduled for surgery this morning, but before she went in, her tumor ruptured and the doctors are working to stop the internal bleeding right now. Her surgeon told Ron that it was very fortunate that she was scheduled for surgery today, but she is still in danger. PLEASE PRAY NOW!

Day 6: Trial, Crucifixion, Death and Burial

Good Friday is the most difficult day of Passion Week. Christ's journey turned treacherous and acutely painful in these final hours leading to his death.

According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known at the time.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross.

Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV). His last words were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46, NIV)

Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

By 6 p.m. Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.



Meet Joseph of Arimathea: Secret Disciple and Donor of Jesus Christ's Tomb

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin and a secret disciple of Jesus, took Christ's body down from the

...

Friday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37.