

Holy Week Timeline

Friday – Arrival in Bethany

Scripture Reference: John 12:1

Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover to spend some time with his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. On the following Tuesday evening, while Jesus was still in Bethany, Mary anointed his feet with costly perfume as an act of humility. This tender expression indicated Mary's devotion to Jesus to her willingness to serve him.

Saturday (Sabbath – the day of rest)

The Gospels do not mention Jesus' activities on this day. We can assume that Jesus spent the Sabbath in traditional fashion with his friends.

Sunday – The Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday)

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

On the first day of the week Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zechariah 9:9.) The crowd welcomed him with the words of Psalm 118:25-26, thus ascribing to him a Messianic title as the agent of the Lord, the coming King of Israel.

Monday – The clearing of the Temple

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48

Jesus returned to the temple and found the court of the Gentiles full of traders and money changers making a large profit off the faithful. Jesus drove them out and overturned their benches and tables.

Tuesday – A day of Teaching and Controversy

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:23 – 24:51; Mark 11:27-13:37; Luke 20:1-21:36

Jesus taught in parables and warned the people to watch out for the Pharisees. He predicted the destruction of the temple and told his disciples about future events, including his own return.

Wednesday

The Gospels do not mention what occurred on this day.

Thursday – Passover/ Last Supper

Scripture Reference: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-23

In an upper room Jesus prepared both himself and his disciples for his death. He gave the traditional Passover meal a new meaning. The loaf of bread and cup of wine represented his body soon to be sacrificed and his blood soon to be shed. And so he instituted the “Lord’s Supper.” After singing a hymn they went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony, knowing what lay ahead of him.

Friday – Crucifixion (Good Friday)

Scripture Reference: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 22:66-23:56; John 18:28-19:37

Following betrayal, arrest, desertion, false trails, denial, condemnation, beatings and mockery, Jesus was required to carry his cross to The Place of the Skull, where he was crucified with two other prisoners.

Saturday – In the Tomb

Jesus’ body was placed in the tomb before 6:00pm Friday night, when the Sabbath began and all work stopped, and it lay in the tomb throughout the Sabbath.

Sunday – Resurrection (Easter Sunday)

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-49; John 20

Early in the morning, women went to the tomb and found that the stone closing the tomb’s entrance had been rolled back. An angel told them Jesus was alive and gave them a message. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden, to Peter, to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all the disciples but Thomas.