**Colors of Grace – wk 1 - Crimson**

**Happy Palm Sunday – Easter part 1. This is Holy week…**

**33 yrs walking earth. 3 yrs preaching the kingdom w/ miracles.**

**The moment had come / that Sunday he enters Jerusalem w/ celebration. 5 days later… condemned, tortured, and killed.**

**On their way to Jerusalem - Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to (implies prior existence) be served, but to serve, (assumes he had the right to be served) and to give his life as a ransom (to purchase a slaves freedom, to be a payment, to be a substitute) for many.”**

**Jesus a ransom - a substitute - payment - That sets him apart from every founder of every religion – they came to live and be an example / Jesus came to die - to sacrifice his life, to ransom**

**The Crucifixion was not a mistake – it was His Mission**

**Beneath all the controversy over who actually killed Jesus… the truth is:God planned it, and saw to it that it came to pass - every detail.**

#### Down to how, where, details / over 350 fulfilled prophecies in Christ - This was no sad accident - The was designed by God

**Jesus did not leave any doubt what He came to do. Headed to Jerusalem that day - Luke 18:31Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. 33 On the third day he will rise again." 34The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.**

**Again & again, I must suffer, I must die, but I will rise...**

**This was the plan? Why so graphic & violent…**

**As they entered Jerusalem - Luke 19:35 They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks and Jesus sat on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38 “Hosanna! (Hbw: Please Save us now, we pray - cry for help and praise - for the Messiah) Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Mk 11:8 spread palm branches before him – why it’s Palm Sunday) 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” 40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”**

**1500yrs of waiting for a messiah / 300 yrs of silence / 100 yrs under Roman rule / looking for a Messiah king - revolutionary.**

**Jesus final week - He stirs the pot. Picks fights, flips tables, loves the poor, confronts the religious, heals the sick, preaches the kingdom.**

**By Thursday the Pharisees had had enough of Jesus - and - it was time to celebrate the Jewish Holy day – PASSOVER**

**\* Most painted picture of Christ life, few examples**

**What really happed that night? What does he want us to remember? Why did this revolution have to end in crucifixion?**

**Recorded in all 4 Gospels - Matthew 26:17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. (BTW we all have an appointed time - Heb 9:27 Appointed for each man to die once…) I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " (Celebrate? How could he knowing he was about to die? Hebrews 12:2 “Jesus who for the joy set before him endured the cross…”) 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.**

**This was to be there last meal together – they did not know it. Jesus wanted this meal to memorialize his death not his life**

**There are 3 Main Parts in the Passover Meal: 2 +1 = Won**

**Unleavened Bread - Fruit of the vine (wine) - Lambs meat**

**They would have been reclining at a table 18” off the ground, (pic) sprawled out on pillows, shoes kicked off - served by the help**

**That night while reclining – Jesus washes their feet, and prays for them. And exposes a plot to betray him.**

**Matthew 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."**

**1st Part - Unleavened Bread (w/out yeast) (Have flat bread)**

**When bread was made, fermented dough from a previous day is mixed with fresh flour - growing (fungus). The dough would rise - then baked.**

**Why unleavened? Echo’s to Egypt. When God delivered Israel, no time for bread to rise - took what they had and ate it unleavened**

**Yeast became a symbol of the sin & bondage they left behind**

**Unleavened was to be a reminder - Exodus 13:6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD. (Passover) 8 on that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' (Eat it and remember God’s deliverance from Egypt)**

**But that night the bread took on a new meaning… He took the bread held it up and said, "See this, eat it - this is My body."**

**They did not understand what he was saying? Eat my body?**

**Matt 26:27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

**2nd Part - The Fruit of the Vine**

**When Jesus handed the cup to the disciples, they naturally would have thought of the blood of the Passover lamb. (Cup of grape juice)**

**Back to Egypt. 10th plague. God instructed Israel to slaughter best lamb, put its blood on the top and sides of the door. Then cook and eat it. When the death angel sees the blood, it will "pass over"**

**Exodus 12:13 - The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. (the wine was to be a reminder of the Lambs blood)**

**That night Jesus brought new meaning to the wine…“This is by blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink?**

**Reclining w/ Jesus - Eat your body / drink your blood? That is weird? Jesus, maybe you've had much wine. They would not understand yet…**

**Jesus was making himself the center of Passover**

**3rd Part - The Lamb**

**As mentioned in the Exodus passages. A perfect lamb that was slain was to be a major part of the Passover meal.**

**Interestingly the Lamb is not mentioned at their Passover meal**

**For - Jesus himself was the Lamb**

**It echoes John the Baptizer when he saw Jesus coming toward him – John1:29 ...“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**

**1 Peter 1:** **18-20 – “We are washed with the with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect - chosen before the foundations of the world - who God raised from the dead” (Jesus is the Lamb slain for us)**

**The events that follow that meal have caused more debates and fueled more division than any other event in history… There are attempts to dispute it, disgrace it, discredit it, & dishonor it. But you can’t ignore it. A piece of lumber that suspends the greatest claim in history…**

**After the Passover meal Jesus goes out to pray - he is cornered and arrested In the middle of night - Jesus is betrayed and sold out by a friend - Judas**

**The God of heaven, the Lord of the universe in human form - the hands that made the Universe – were now in chains**

#### Eyewitness accounts record that Jesus was

#### Illegally arrested & beaten by the temple guards with rods

#### Dragged thru town in bogus trials to build up a case against him

#### Pharisees sent Him to Pilate (questioned, mocked, abused)

#### Pilate sent him to Herod (questioned, humiliated, beaten)

#### Herod sent him back to Pilate (all before noon)

#### Pilate attempts to appease the crowd - beating short of death

**John 19:16 - 16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. (The son of God - sentenced to die a torturous death like a criminal) So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.**

* **Stripped naked (clothes gambled for) Nails driven into hands and feet, and lifted up to be mocked and spit on…**

**That piece of wood! That symbol - History has idolized it, despised it, gold plated it, burned it, worn it & trashed it**

**Why Crucifixion – why a Cross?**

**Why so bloody, so violent, so painful? One of the most gruesome, morbid, and horrific ways to die. Why was it necessary?**

**Refereeing to the cross He was to bare - John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, (the cross is love) that whoever believes in him shall not perish (cross is justice) but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (cross is payment) 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, (the cross is mercy) but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**

* **Why a cross? Because the Cross is perfect love**

**Jesus = God with us. God himself in his love stepped down. Bearing what only God himself could bear – the sins of the world.**

**All life changing love is substitutionary - you can’t love anything w/out taking a hit… love always cost you – w/ kids, (late nights, sleeping on floor, same book 100X) marriage, friendships – the troubles, problems - you get pain – but the sacrifice is worth it. You love them.**

**Parents sacrifice your freedom and time to equip & mature your kids – they will pay for it if you don’t. Either you make the sacrifice or they will… it’s them or you – Love says so…**

* **Why a cross? Because the Cross is perfect justice**

**Justice for what? Our sin. Sin separates us from God**

**Born with a natural bent to sin. Sin is our willful, deliberate, frontal assault against a holy God. We are born dead in sin.**

**Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins…**

**Colossians 2:13 You were dead in your transgressions… but He made you alive with Him, having forgiven us… (follow up – John 6:32)**

**The issue of our life is not simply that we sin – we all do. But even more - we are dead in sin. We’re spiritually dead w/out Jesus. The cross was the justice of God- poured out on Jesus.**

**All have sinned (Ro 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God)**

**All sin has to be punished (Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death) Someone has to pay with their life (Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.)**

**We just want a loving God – but you cannot have a holy and perfect God w/out perfect justice. The cross was that justice.**

**Letting a pedophile free without justice is not just – it’s wicked**

**1 John 14:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (Propitiation = wrath satisfier – This is love - He himself took the punishment for sin)**

**As he hung, he cried out in anguish. He could have felt no pain, but he embraced suffering to pay for our suffering. The sin of all creation was placed on him. Every addict, pedophile, abuser and good person - the wrath of the Father dealt justly.**

* **Why a cross? Because the Cross is perfect payment**

**God’s holiness requires judgment and payment for all sin… all misses**

**Jesus our substitute, stepped in and took our shame – he bore**

**Jesus is that payment. 2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**Matthew 27:46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” (Jesus often taught in partial verses - it was a rabbinic time saving technique known as "ramez")**

**Some assume Jesus was shunned by the father at that moment, but his disciples would have known better. They would have remembered a Psalm every good Jewish boy knew**

**Psalm 22 - 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? 6 I am a worm scorned by men and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 14 I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. 16 …a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. 19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. 24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. (the Father did not turn his face) 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust (those who die) will kneel before him… 30 Future generations will be told about Him and serve him. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn - for he has done it!**

**Jesus was not crying out in loneliness and grief. He was crying out a victorious shout! Declaring Ps 22 – was happening now! Future generations are free! I have done it!**

**At the moment the price was paid, Jesus cried out (John 19:3 “It is finished!”) Literally paid in full! The cross is perfect payment**

* **Why a cross? Because the Cross is perfect mercy**

**violent and vile – horrific – bloody... and beautiful**

**Matthew 27: 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Rip the towel the bread is wrapped in - 60 ft tall 30 ft wide – ripped from top to bottom – God himself did it. As Jesus was torn - the curtain was torn – the wall between God and Man was torn) The earth shook and the rocks split… 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (mercy for our sickness & suffering – healing)**

**As Christ cried out, they began to understand They began to understand why the cross was necessary.**

**As Christ was beaten and bruised – they began to understand…**

**Christ is the unleavened bread – His broken body is our deliverance from eternal bondage. As the bread was w/out yeast, Jesus is w/out sin We must take and eat this truth must be in us…**

**As his blood poured out – they began to understand…**

**Christ blood is the fruit of the vine - The fruit of his life is the blood poured out for our sin… We must drink this truth…**

**As they gazed on the cross - they began to understand…**

**Christ is the Lamb that was slain – the perfect lamb who takes away the sins of the world.**

**Passover foretold the Crucifixion. Communion declares the cross. I remember, I receive it, I will not forget it, or take lightly**

**My dog has a problem – he gets into the trash and hamper. He knows better… but the temptation is too great. I find trash on the floor & yard. Calvin nowhere to be found (hiding). I clean it up mad, but soon forget about it. He later shows up (tail between his legs, ears down) Thinks I am mad at him… but he doesn’t realize I have already dealt with his mistake. \* Somewhere, somehow – you got tangles up in garbage and you’ve been avoiding God. Listen God already dealt with it – at the cross. That table, that night, that last supper is a reminder of the love, justice, payment, and mercy of God poured in the blood of Christ on the cross. With an invitation – to come and eat.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes (Full trust in! Total reliance) in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (What is our part? We must respond. We must acknowledge our need and turn to the cross.) - Next week – Easter pt 2. The Resurrection.**