**The Passion – The last 24 Hours**

**For 33 yrs God was kicking up dirt in His creation. The God/Man Jesus - laughing, eating, talking, loving family & friends - for 3 yrs - he walked the land preaching, feeding, healings, performing miracles.**

**Jesus Christ - lit = Jesus the promised anointed royal one.**

**Jesus = means savior / healer. \*\*\* Today is Palm Sunday**

**Headed to Jerusalem that Sunday, things are about to change… Luke 18:31 Jesus 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." 34 The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. (No doubt he knew his mission)**

**Everything he came for - came down to this final 24 hrs. Recorded in the Bible and history. This is the Passion of Christ**

**6PM Thurs - Passover - A 1400yr old holiday that promises deliverance**

**A final meal w/ his disciples and friends - He prays for them, loves on them, laughs with them - He prepares them. In a twist – he says he is the meal in the flesh… they were confused.**

**11PM Thurs – After dinner He goes to his favorite place to pray**

**Knowing time has come, he invites a few disciples to join him. Calling out to the Father his capillaries burst - he sweats blood**

**12AM Friday - Jesus praying - waiting for his arrest**

**Mark 14:43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." (a warm greeting – a kiss of death) 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. (Peter tried to defend Jesus – but Jesus knew this was the plan. - It is 1AM**

**Beginning in the dark of morning He’s paraded thru - 7 Trials of Jesus**

**2AM - T1 - Annas (former high Priest) – beaten with rods and abused**

**3AM - T2 - Caiaphas (current high Priest) - abused & beaten more (Jail)**

**5AM - T3 - Sanhedrin court - daybreak the Jewish elders / scribes arrive**

**(Bringing false witness to attack him) Mark 14:61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again, the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ (the royal promised King), the Son of the Blessed One?" (God in the flesh) 62 "I am,” said Jesus. (Declaring his divinity in shackles when it was least likely to be credible) "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (From Isaiah - you will see me, the Almighty, coming to judge you!) 63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. 64"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!" And the guards took him and beat him.**

**Deciding Jesus must die, stoning him would start a riot - they wanted Rome to kill Jesus - they needed to convince Pilate.**

**6AM - T4 - Before Governor Pilate - I find no guilt, go ask local authority**

**7AM - T5 - Before king Herod - Jesus would not talk, sent back to Pilate**

**7:30AM -T6 - Back to Governor Pilate - He’s severely beaten & tortured.**

**(wanting to satisfy the crowd) John 19:1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. (Flogging – illus) 2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. (1-2” crammed into skull) They clothed him in a purple robe 3 and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face. *(Mark - adds they spit on him and beat with a rod)***

**8:00AM – T7 - Before the crowd, Shouting crucify! Pilate condemns him**

**8:30AM - Jesus walks the Via Delarosa “sorrowful way”**

**to Golgotha – “The Skull”**

**Jesus is exhausted, a man is grabbed from the crowd to help carry his cross – he later becomes a follower of Jesus.**

**"Son let me tell you when I carried our lords cross..."**

**9AM - Arriving at Skull Hill Crucifixion begins – the nails – hands / feet**

# **The sound of love… My kids laughter… spouse, I love you… friends, you can count on me… there is the sound of passionate love greater than all - the sound of screaming an hammering nails.**

**\* 7 Last Words of Jesus begin... They still speak**

**Luke 23: 33 When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified Him, along with the criminals… Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people, because they don’t know what they are doing.” (no friendly faces, no one to comfort, no sympathy – only spite, anger, ingratitude, hatred… As he was beat, whipped & nailed down - there was no cursing or anger – only a prayer…)**

**1- As tormentors drive the nails - A word of grace - forgiveness sign**

**10AM - Criminals on each side, both guilty but one was willing to acknowledge it… Broken, humbled, cries out - Luke 23:** **42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 - And Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

**2 - As a criminal humbly repents - A word of compassion -Sign**

**Speaking to the guilty in the midst of his own need and pain – he responds in compassion. I see you, hear you, forgive you.**

**11AM - (4 groups at cross: soldiers, crowd, thieves, & few family / friends) John 19:26 When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son.” 27 And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.**

**3 - As his earthly mother looks to him - A word of love – sign**

**In the midst of torture and pain, He had his family on his mind. The value of his earthly family and friends dear to his heart.**

**12PM - The momentous final 3 hours of Jesus- total darkness & silence**

**Struggling to live - exhausted, critical condition, blood loss, nerve damage, exposed muscle, incredible pain. Excruciating-from cross**

**Struggling to live - asphyxiation (suffocation) or hypovolemic shock (heart / organ failure) – he embraced every ounce of pain!**

**Matthew 27:45 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. 46 At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, (he breaks his silence) “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Did God turn away? No! Quotes Ps 22, I am doing this now)**

**4 - As the weight of sin rest on him - A word of substitution - sign**

**The weight of the world was expressed in his humanity. He came in contact with the worst of all of us, the hideous unseen acts and thoughts of all humanity – all on his shoulders.**

**1 Peter 2:22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”**

**5th saying - John 19:28 Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there (common cheap drink for Roman Guards), so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. (Knowing he had completed his mission he refers to a basic human need – I’m thirsty)**

**5 - As his day was coming to an end - A word of humanity – sign**

**God became fully human, walked among us, experienced life thru our eyes: our pain & joys - He became thirsty for every thirsty soul. I am the living water - those who drink of it will never thirst again! (Jo 4, 17)**

**3PM - 6 - As his work on earth was fulfilled - A word of triumph – sign**

**John 19:30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!”**

**“Tetelestai" – Finished! Mission accomplished! A financial term: Literally – “Paid in Full” - The debt has been paid and satisfied!**

**It’s like every bill and future bill – was put in a shredder**

**In ancient times children were given to pay off debts – something they could understand – Jesus was sent to pay the debt… paid in full**

**We are bankrupt in sin and need to file Chapter 7 – Luke 7 – A broken women (harlot) weeping before him – your sins are forgiven!**

**At 3PM – 3 gospels record the temple veil tearing - separation between us and God – limited access, now torn - top to bottom by God himself - the way is now open to all who would believe**

**Historical records tell us that a great earthquake shook the earth that day.**

**Jesus speaks one final time during the 3pm hour... Luke 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, (strong victorious shout) “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Ps 31) When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Finally, the suffering, the beating, the pain is over…)**

**7 - As he breathed his last breath - A word of trust – sign**

**The First words recorded of Jesus, “I must be about my Fathers work”**

**The Last Words recorded before his death, “Father the work is done”**

**Jesus not only taught how to live but also how to die w/ peace.**

**To live fully trusting the Father and die fully trusting the Father.**

**God whatever this life brings, to the end in your hands I give it.**

**Most crucifixion victims die a slow horrible death of dehydration, blood loss, suffocation, infection, insanity, and wild animals - but not Jesus.**

**His body was not to be dishonored. When payment was full, he chose the time – right down to the minute.**

**It's important to know that His life was not taken - it was given.**

**This was an act of His will. Beneath all the controversy over who killed Jesus - truth is Jesus willingly gave up His life for the sins of this world**

**It was not a mistake - it was his mission - John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. - 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”**

**Jesus was not a helpless victim of a sinister plot by Satan - His life did not end suddenly, unexpectedly, he is not a martyr!**

**This suffering and pain - was the plan…**

**His entire life was spent in the shadow of the cross - Always on his heart - always on his mind - the confession & implication behind every word in scripture - behind every word he spoke - He was always moving toward the cross (read the Bible w/ the cross in mind)**

**That very day an ugly symbol of death and hate became a beautiful symbol of life, love, power and passion of God!**

**His death- his broken body- his shed blood - cleanses us, heals us, makes us whole, redeems us, brings new life, brings new birth, new beginnings, acquittal, vindication, and an invitation to a sacred family, a holy adoption, a declaration of righteousness, a great exchange, an empowered life free from the shackles of sin & sickness! THE CROSS!!!**

**The death of Jesus is nothing less than the eternal power of God on display. The Just and Holy One - Faithful and true - has mercy on us... God himself provided a way for us to know Him!**

**Three Responses to the cross of Christ that day – and still today!**

**Luke 23 47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” (Matt 27:54 & Mark 15:39 - truly this man is son of God / lit - this man is holy) 48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. 49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.**

**1 - Those Closest to him - Confused**

**Luke 23:49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.**

**They could not look away - it was not supposed to be like this. It was supposed to be different. They loved Jesus - but stood in confusion... shocked. Ashamed.**

**2 - The Crowd - Convicted**

**Luke 23:48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.**

**They felt bad and sensed conviction - but then went home - nothing changed. They went away sad and the same.**

**3 - The Centurion - Confessed**

**Luke 23:47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” (Mark 15:39 - truly this man is son of God)**

**The hardened soldier - one responsible for Jesus very death. Shocked and humbled by what he saw and heard - His heart convicted - he turned and worshiped…**

**After watching and participating in the events that day the first recorded cry of faith after the death of Jesus was that of a Roman soldier. Ironically - last person they would have wanted**

**3:30 PM - Soldiers break the criminal’s legs so they will die - leaving them to suffocate to death.**

**John 19:31-37 - Seeing Jesus was dead - they pierced his side to make sure (blood and water burst out - His heart had burst) Unwittingly they were fulfilling scripture that none of his bones would be broken!**

**No doubt about it... Jesus is dead…**

**As we look at the cross**

**Know this: God is Holy / Sin is ugly / Salvation is costly**

**For three hours he hangs there… his body is requested and petitioned**

**6 PM - Jesus body is taken down and hurried off to a borrowed tomb before sunset. Jesus is anointed and closed up in a tomb.**

**And Just as the earth stood dark and silent for 3 hrs – there will be 3 days of darkness and silence in that grave – but only three days… victory is coming!**

**What do you see when you see the cross?**

**I’ll tell you what Jesus sees when he looked at the cross – YOU!**

# **Hebrews 12:2b For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Do you seen the Savior dying for your sins today?**

**There are attempts to ignore it and discredit it - But you can’t ignore that piece of lumber that suspends the greatest claim in history.**

**The Cross demands a response - How will you respond? Will you leave confused, convicted (& walk away), or will you confess?**

**Three crosses that day - Jesus and two responses.**

**Dead in sin and dies in sin / Repents – made new forgiveness of sin.**

**There will be day when we will all face Jesus. On that day - when you face death - what will be your words? What will be your cry? I know what mine will be, “Father into your hands I commit my spirit”**