

Mount Olive Baptist Church
Bible Study Notes
Walking Through Holy Week

Theme:

What looked like a tragic week was actually the unfolding of God's redemptive plan.

Main Passages:

Matthew 21–27; Mark 11–15; Luke 19–23; John 12–19

I. Introduction

MOBC, when we talk about Holy Week, we are talking about the most important week in human history. This is not just the final week of Jesus' earthly life. This is the week where prophecy is fulfilled, sin is confronted, darkness is exposed, and salvation is secured.

Holy Week begins with cheers and ends with a cross.

It opens with palm branches waving and closes with a borrowed tomb waiting.

It begins with people crying, "Hosanna!" and before long some of those same voices are crying, "Crucify Him!"

And that is how life is sometimes. People can praise you one day and reject you the next.

Crowds can be fickle. Public opinion can turn. Emotions can shift, but through it all, Jesus remains steady, focused, and faithful to His assignment.

That is one of the great lessons of Holy Week: **Jesus never lost sight of why He came.**

II. What Is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week leading up to Resurrection Sunday. It remembers the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, His suffering, His crucifixion, His burial, and the events leading to His resurrection.

It is "holy" because it centers on the holy work of Christ—His willing sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The Gospels present these events from different angles, and this timeline represents a harmonized understanding of Holy Week.

III. Walking Through Each Day of Holy Week

1. Palm Sunday – The Day of Presentation

Key Texts:

Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–44; John 12:12–19

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowd spreads garments and palm branches in the road and cries out, “Hosanna,” which means “Save now.”

This moment fulfills prophecy, especially Zechariah 9:9. Jesus presents Himself openly as King—but not the kind of king they expected. He does not come riding a war horse. He comes riding a donkey, symbolizing humility and peace.

2. Holy Monday – The Day of Cleansing**Key Texts:**

Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48

Jesus enters the temple and drives out the money changers and those buying and selling there. He says, “My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.”

This is a bold public act. Jesus confronts religious corruption. He shows that worship had been contaminated by greed, exploitation, and empty religion.

3. Holy Tuesday – The Day of Teaching and Confrontation**Key Texts:**

Matthew 21:23–24:51; Mark 11:20–13:37; Luke 20:1–21:38

Tuesday appears to be a long day of public teaching and confrontation. Jesus teaches in the temple, answers challenges from the Pharisees and Sadducees, exposes hypocrisy, and gives powerful teaching about the end times and the coming judgment.

This is the day of parables, warnings, rebukes, and prophetic teaching.

4. Spy Wednesday (Holy Wednesday) – The Day of Silence and Betrayal**Key Texts:**

Matthew 26:1–16; Mark 14:1–11; Luke 22:1–6

Wednesday is often called **Spy Wednesday** because Judas agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

The Gospels do not record as much public activity on this day, but behind the scenes betrayal is brewing. While heaven’s plan is moving forward, hell is plotting too.

5. Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) – The Day of Fellowship, Foot Washing, Agony, and Arrest

Key Texts:

Matthew 26:17–75; Mark 14:12–72; Luke 22:7–71; John 13–18

This is a full and heavy day.

Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples. He institutes Communion. He washes the disciples' feet. He teaches them deeply in the Upper Room. He prays in Gethsemane. Then He is betrayed by Judas, arrested, and taken away.

Main Movements of Thursday:**A. The Last Supper**

Jesus takes bread and cup and gives them new covenant meaning. The bread represents His body. The cup represents His blood.

B. Foot Washing

In John 13, Jesus washes His disciples' feet. The King takes the position of a servant.

C. Gethsemane

Jesus prays in agony. He is fully surrendered: "Not my will, but thine, be done."

D. The Arrest

Judas arrives with soldiers. Jesus is arrested and abandoned by His disciples.

6. Good Friday – The Day of Suffering and Crucifixion**Key Texts:**

Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28–19:37

Good Friday includes Jesus' trials before religious and Roman authorities, His beating, mocking, scourging, carrying of the cross, crucifixion, death, and burial preparations beginning.

He is falsely accused, rejected, humiliated, and nailed to the cross.

What Happens on Friday?

- Jesus is tried before Pilate
- Barabbas is released instead of Jesus
- Jesus is mocked by soldiers
- He carries His cross
- He is crucified at Golgotha
- He speaks from the cross
- Darkness covers the land
- He dies
- The temple veil is torn

Why is it called “Good” Friday?

Because what was horrifying in experience was holy in purpose.

It was good not because suffering is good, but because salvation came through it.

7. Holy Saturday (Silent Saturday) – The Day of Silence, Waiting, and the Tomb

Key Texts:

Matthew 27:57–66; Luke 23:50–56

Jesus’ body lies in the tomb. The disciples are grieving, confused, and afraid. The promise has not yet visibly come to pass.

Saturday is the in-between day. The cross has happened, but the resurrection has not yet been seen.

Just because God seems silent does not mean God is absent.

Saturday teaches us how to live in the tension between promise and manifestation.

There are seasons when it looks like hope is buried. But buried does not mean finished.

Food for Thought

Holy Week teaches us that God can be doing His greatest work in the worst week of your life.

What looked like rejection was actually redemption.

What looked like loss was actually salvation.

What looked like the end was actually the beginning.

And here is the tension we must learn to live in: God’s plan is often unfolding even when we do not understand it.

What if the very thing you are trying to get out of is the very thing God is using to bring you into?