

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
March 28 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #734

The Season of Lent 2018 – Life Among The Thorns

Quiet Wednesday

Our Lord Jesus lived for 33 years here on Earth. The Incarnation. God made flesh. Incredible! We are blessed to have our four Gospels in God's Word that give us a record of those 33 years.

But for the most part we have a sporadic report. An event here, a teaching there, a miracle reported, a key event recorded. Much of the details of Jesus' earthly day-to-day, week-to-week life go unreported. We wish we had more detail. But when it comes to Holy Week ... those days from Palm Sunday to Easter ... we have more detail of Jesus' life than of any other time. We can follow Jesus day-by-day through that incredible week.

Palm Sunday – Jesus enters Jerusalem in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, riding on a donkey, to the delight of a crowd gathered to welcome Him waving palm branches and shouting **“Hosanna!”** – An affirmation of Christ as Savior from Psalm 118:25.

Monday – Jesus enters the Temple area and causes a stir by driving the money changers & animal sellers out of the Courtyard of the Gentiles. This area was to be the area where non-Jewish people could come to meet the One true God of Israel, but by Jesus' day it had become nothing more than a farmer's market. Jesus shows His authority as Lord of the Temple.

Tuesday – Jesus returns to the Temple and shares strong, condemning teaching to the religious leaders. He stuns the Temple priests by calling them **“whitewashed tombs.”** (Matt.23:27 NIV) He leaves the Temple courts for the last time of His earthly life with the prophetic words, **“Look your House is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”** (Matt.23:38-39 NIV) With His leaving the Spirit of the Lord no longer resides in the Holy of Holies, and in 37 years the Temple would be absolutely and completely destroyed! And His words foreshadow His Glorious Appearing when He returns in His second coming at the end of the Tribulation. He and the Apostles go to The Mount of Olives for in-depth teaching that we refer to as *“The Olivet Discourse”* (Matthew 24).

Quiet Wednesday – Jesus spends the day quietly. Most likely with friends Mary, Martha & Lazarus in Bethany where He was staying. Did He play with the village children? Did He go off by Himself in prayer? Did Martha cook Him His favorite meal? And just what was the favorite meal of the One whose hands had created the entire universe? I'm sure it wasn't anything with cheese! What must the Creator have thought about us humans taking His good gift of milk and letting it spoil and calling that food??!! We know He liked & served fish. Had Lazarus had some Tilapia, fresh from the Sea of Galilee, brought in and grilled them just for Jesus? And many times He served bread and called Himself, *“the Bread of Life”* (John 6:48). *(When I was in Israel I found a street vendor selling a wonderful soft pretzel like bread. It wasn't twisted into a*

pretzel shape & it wasn't covered with salt but rather sesame seeds, but it was delicious!) Maybe Martha had brought some of these from Jerusalem to please Jesus. Did He talk with Lazarus ... who just a week before had been dead ... about Heaven? We just don't know what He did that day except that that evening while eating in Bethany a woman poured expensive perfume on His head. Some grumbled at the waste. But Jesus was appreciative and saw it as preparation for the hard days ahead. ***“Leave her alone ... She has done a beautiful thing to me ... She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.”*** (Mark 14:6-8 NIV)

Maundy Thursday – Jesus & His disciples meet in an Upper Room in Jerusalem for the Passover Meal in what we refer to as *“The Last Supper.”* The disciples are arguing about which of them will be Jesus' *“right hand man”* when He is made King, and Jesus stuns them by taking the role of servant and instituting the ordinance of feet washing. ***“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done to you.”***(John 13:15 NIV). We call the day *“Maundy Thursday”* from the Latin word *mandatum* (or mandate) from Jesus words, ***“A new commandment I give you: Love one another.”*** (John 13:34 NIV). Late at night they leave the Upper Room and travel to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prays in anguish and is arrested.

Good Friday – From one mockery of a trial to the next Jesus is falsely accused, horribly beaten, given His Crown of Thorns, and sentenced to Roman crucifixion on Skull Hill just outside the city. The name *“Good Friday”* originally was *“God's Friday”* which became *“Good Friday”* the same way *“God be with you”* became *“Good-bye.”* Some say it is *“Good”* because of what it means to us who are saved by Jesus' sacrifice, but the original name was *“God Friday”* because the love & grace & power of God was on display at its fullest on that rocky hill of death!

So just as we wave palms and sing *“Hosanna!”* on **Palm Sunday**, and share Holy Communion on **Maundy Thursday**, and somberly remember on **Good Friday**, and celebrate with *“He is risen! – He is risen indeed!”* on **Resurrection (Easter) Sunday** ... I'd like you to remember our Lord on this **Quiet Wednesday**! It was a day of quiet, love & friendship shown to Jesus. We might honor Him today by showing love & friendship to those whom we care about. After all Jesus said that ***“whatever you have done for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you have done for me”*** (Matthew 25:40 NIV). When we show love & care to others, our Lord receives it as honoring Him! I can't give Jesus a Smithies' Soft Pretzel ... but I can take my wife out for supper. I can't anoint Him with expensive perfume ... but I can visit a lonely shut-in. I can't show Jesus friendship as His crisis approaches ... but I can show love to a friend going thru a hard time. I can't sit at His feet and listen to Him teach ... but I can find some quiet moments for prayer where I don't go with my “laundry list” of what I need ... but just express to the Lord adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for what His gift of Life means to me!

With love for my Lord on this Quiet Wednesday ... Pastor Larry <><