

Destiny Center
Sunday, April 1, 2012



"Revealed In Red" Series

INTRO VIDEO – "Palm Sunday – God's Way"

"Passion"

Illustration

Passion – (fire, zeal)

- "A powerful emotion, such as love, joy, hatred, or anger; boundless enthusiasm; intense love"
- You cannot necessarily see passion, but you KNOW and can sense when people are passionate about certain things. We are passionate about people, places, things, time, money, relationships, ideals, ministry, etc.
- The things we are passionate about in life are the things we will focus on, spend the most time on and give our energy to.
- "The sufferings of Jesus in the period following the Last Supper and including the Crucifixion, as related in the New Testament."

What are you passionate about? Who are you passionate about? What kinds of things are you passionate about?

John 12:1;12-13;17-18;20-23 NLV – ¹*It was six days before the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus lived. Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead...* ¹²*The next day many people were in Jerusalem for the religious gathering. They heard Jesus was coming.* ¹³*They took branches of trees and went to meet Him. They spoke with a loud voice, 'HOSANNA! Great and honored is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of the Jews!'*... ¹⁷*The people who had been with Jesus when He had called Lazarus from the grave kept telling of this powerful work to others. They had seen Lazarus raised from the dead.* ¹⁸*Because of this the people went to meet Jesus. They had heard He had done this powerful work...* ²⁰*Some Greek people had come to worship at the religious gathering. They were among the others who had come to worship.* ²¹*These Greek people came to Philip. He was from the city of Bethsaida in the country of Galilee. They said to him, 'Sir, we want to see Jesus!'* ²²*Philip went and told Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip told*

Jesus. ²³Jesus said to them, 'The hour is near for the Son of Man to be taken to heaven to receive great honor.'"

In this scene, the people were passionate about worshipping Jesus as He came into Jerusalem. He was praised as the MESSIAH!

Passion is what moved Jesus to embrace the shame, pain, embarrassment and death of the cross.

1. **Passionate CHURCH**

Matthew 16:15-19 The Message – ¹⁵He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷⁻¹⁸Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out."

Peter was very passionate about what he believed. And Jesus confirmed it.

I believe the reason so many believers live such meaningless and empty lives is because they've lost their passion and zeal for God and the Church! We cannot afford to lose our passion and zeal for the things of God!

Sunday services are IMPORTANT because they are where we get focus and purpose and direction from God. It is here that we come to create an atmosphere of deliverance for everyone who comes here. If we aren't being the Church, then people will not experience what God intends. *"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together..."*

"Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion." **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**

What is a passionate church?

- A passionate church is **generous** – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- A passionate church **lives by the Spirit** – Galatians 5:13-26
- A passionate church is **unified** – Ephesians 4:1-16
- A passionate church is **faithful and thankful** – Colossians 1:13,14
- A passionate church **lives to please God** – I Thessalonians 4:1-10

2. Passionate WORSHIP

II Samuel 6:12,14-15 NLT - *"¹²So David went there and brought the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with a great celebration...¹⁴And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. ¹⁵So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns."*

I long to experience the intimate presence of a holy God and to worship Him with all my heart. David was so passionate about worshipping his King that he embarrassed his wife....

What makes our worship "passionate" is our encounter with the One who endured the "passion," the "suffering" for us! Our worship cannot be about the videos, lights, cool songs, nor all the creativity in the world. Those things CANNOT create passion. We need a passionate love for God to the point we want nothing but His presence...and that's all we will need. We need Jesus to show up!!! When he shows up, things tend to get passionate.

What is passionate worship?

- Worship should be whole hearted.
- Worship is alive and an expression of a heart sensitive to God.
- Worship eagerly expects to encounter God through singing, prayer, preaching, and Holy Communion.
- Worship that is committed to responding to God's revelation.

3. Passionate RELATIONSHIPS

John 15:13 NLV – *"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."*

We are extremely passionate about our kids, families and our friends. We are passionate about our spouse...or at least we should be. What do I mean by passionate in relationships? Protecting, strengthening, fighting for...

What is needed for passionate relationships?

- **Love** – Mark 12:26-31
- **Being a peacemaker** – Matthew 5:9, Proverbs 17:14
- **Humility** – Phillipians 2:3-4, I Peter 5:5

- **Being friendly** – Matthew 7:12, Proverbs 18:24
- **Encouragement** – Proverbs 16:24, Philippians 4:5
- **Forgiveness** – Matthew 6:14-15

4. **Passionate MINISTRY**

Matthew 25:37-40 NLT – *“³⁷Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”*

God’s gifting within us creates passion. The things we are gifted for we become passionate about. You NEED passion in the ministry or the area you are giving to God, otherwise it becomes monotonous and a drudgery. Get active in the areas you are passionate about.

Wherever energy and emotions rise, this is where their passion lies. Passionate about how people drive, emotions rise when they drive terrible. Passionate about hard work, drives you crazy when someone is lazy. Passionate about shopping, find super sales! Passionate about health, get frustrated at how people destroy their bodies with food or addictions. Passionate about reaching out, find ways to help people. If you are passionate about the lost, it moves you to be active in ministry. Passion drives you to do what you do! It drove Jesus to do what He did.

MANY people long for the “good ole days” or times when they remember things being really good. No matter if they are church related, family related, business\financial related, or social related, these times can never be recreated. The reason they long for it is because it invokes emotion and PASSION. Because many are so passionate about what they know from the past, they unintentionally close themselves out to today and tomorrow’s possibilities.

God is passionate about YOU! His red blood proves it! He gave it all just for you...because He is passionate about your freedom from bondage and addictions. He passionately gave it all so you could have everything you need to be His and to be free.

His passion is not necessarily based on what you can do for Him, but YOU! He wants your heart, your mind, your time, your resources, your energy, your soul!

Are you passionate about Him? What are you PASSIONATE about? What consumes your life? What is your focus? What are your desires?