

The Passion Week

References:

- A Crucified Christ in Holy Week by Fr. Raymond E. Brown, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota
The Holy Week By H.H. Pope Shenouda III, 3rd printing 1981, Cairo, Egypt (Arabic)
The Holy Pascha Katameros 2nd printing 1941, Egypt (Arabic)

Notes For Servants:

1. Jesus came and suffered to conquer death that we may have eternal life.
2. Do you attend the passion week services and reflect on its events?
3. Do you make a special effort to progress spiritually during this week?

Objectives:

General: Jesus' passion ended with the crucifixion to teach us that there is no salvation without the cross.

Specific:

1. Try to reflect on the events of the passion week to help you identify how to carry the cross(es) in your life.
2. Determine for yourself which cross(es) you will train yourself to carry at this time.
3. Train yourself to carry the cross with joy.

Instructions:

1. Review the previous lesson.
2. Church occasion.
3. Introduce church practices during the Holy week.
4. List the events of the holy week, reflecting on some.
5. Emphasise the act of salvation through the cross and how it applies to us.

Bible Verse:

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
Luke 9:25

Lesson:

The Passion Week

The word "Pascha" is a Hebrew word that means Passover which refers to the passing of the hurting angel from the Hebrew homes which were marked by the blood.

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (EXODUS 12:13)

Also this week is called "the Holy week", "the Passion week".

The holy week is the greatest and most spiritual week in the whole year. In that week we remember the sufferings of Jesus for us and we focus on His cross.

The regular hourly prayers (Agbia) are replaced by the Pascha hymns and the Pascha events from the Bible. The church is covered with black clothes. All the songs have a sad tone and the whole congregation is living a life away from any pleasure (no make-up, no parties, no sweets, no major cooking).

THE HOLY WEEK DAY BY DAY: ---

***SATURDAY:**

There was a supper done in Mary's and Martha's house to thank Jesus for He brought Lazarus alive again after he was dead.

***SUNDAY:**

The Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem as a King. After that Sunday service, the curtains of the Altar are closed and a general prayer for the dead starts. At the end of the general prayer for the dead, the priests sprinkle the blessed water on all the people of the church.

***MONDAY:**

Jesus was hungry and he saw a fig tree, so he went to eat from it, but there was only leaves and no fruits. Jesus cursed the tree and said "you will never again bear fruits" and at once, the tree dried up.

***TUESDAY:**

The synagogue authorities question Jesus' actions & miracles. [Mat. 21:23-32].

***WEDNESDAY:**

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve went to the chief priest and betrayed Jesus [Mark 14: 10-16]. That day also had the preparation for the Last Supper. [Mark 14:10-16].

***THURSDAY:**

The Last Supper and Jesus washes his Disciples' feet [Mat. 26: 20-25] & [John 13:3-8]

***FRIDAY:**

The crucifixion day.

1. The trials from 6-9 am:

2nd trial in front of the chief priest

3rd trial in front of Pilate

4th trial in front of Herod

5th trial in front of Pilate again.

2. Carrying the Cross to the Golgotha 9 am to 12 pm:

39 whips.

The crown of thorns
The falling of Jesus under the Cross.
Simon of Cyrene carries the Cross with Jesus.
Jesus remembers his mother.
The nails & the Crucifixion.

3. The seven words of Jesus on the Cross 12-3 pm:

1-Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
2-Assuredly, I say unto you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.
3-Woman, behold your son!.. Behold, your mother.
4-My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me.
5-I Thirst.
6-It is finished.
7-Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.

4. The events from 3-6 pm:

A spear into Jesus' side (water & blood).
The Tombs opened & the curtains in the temple were torn into two from top to bottom.
The rocks cracked & the land shook.
The leader of the hundred soldiers gained faith.
The burial of Jesus.

NOTES:

Why the cross was the way Jesus chose to die?

"Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree" (Deut. 21, 23, Gal. 3:13).

"Has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13).

"He has carried our sins" (Isaiah 53:4)

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1Pet. 2:24).

If Jesus came to bear the curse laid upon us, how else could He do that unless he received the death set for a curse, and that is the cross.

Jesus the son of God who gives water and life to the whole world became thirsty, but what the Jews gave Him to drink? sour wine mingled with gall.

We ask the Lord to bless us and help us to become like Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross with Him so we may be glorified also with Him.

Conclusion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.