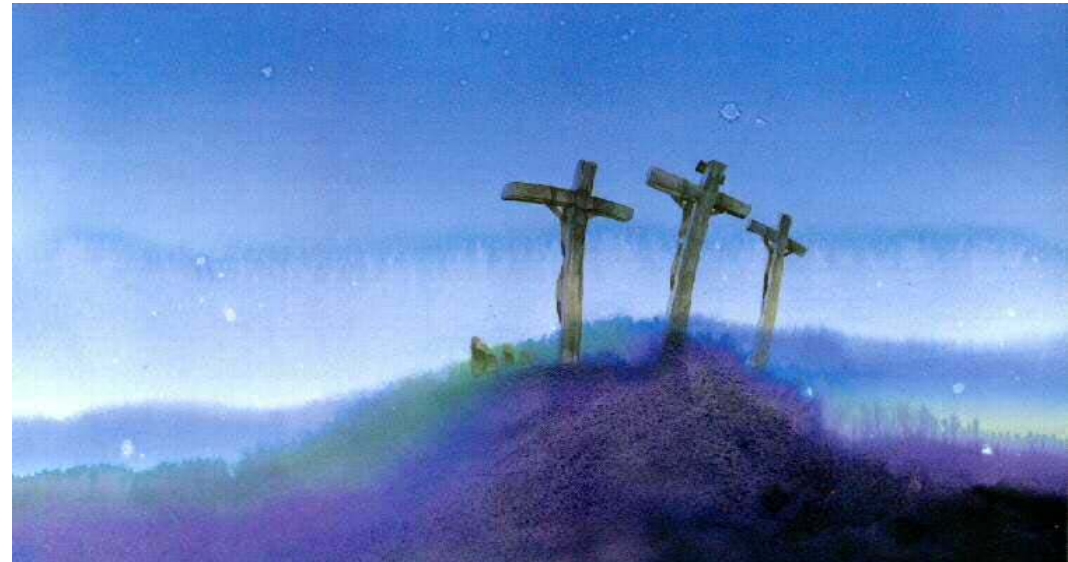


Journeying with Jesus



December 23 (Friday) **Christ is Risen** Matthew 28:1-20

1. In what way does Jesus' resurrection matter to you?
2. The resurrection of Jesus gives me good reason to believe that he is the creator of the universe. Is Jesus' resurrection a hallucination by his disciples? I don't think so! His disciples were scared to death when Jesus was crucified. But less than two months later and in front of the officials, they boldly testified what they had seen as if they were totally reborn. How do you explain these behaviours of the disciples?
3. After Jesus was risen, he appeared multiple times and to more than 500 people. Since there were so many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, Jesus' resurrection cannot be a hallucination.
4. Jesus' resurrection gives me the power to become God's child. Is this not what we long for while we seek meaning to our life? From now on, I will live a blessed and holy life. Furthermore, I can say no to all sins.
5. My past has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live. Rather I live a new life which is given by God. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
6. Now my life is filled with hope. Life is transient and the world is unpredictable. But for my future, good or bad, I worry not, for God is my all.

My thought/My prayer:

Dec 24 (Sat) **What Jesus has Entrusted His Disciples before His Ascension** Acts 1:-11

1. This is Jesus' farewell discourse and his last commandments to his disciples before his ascension. If you were not born in Canada, have you ever said farewell to other people when you left your home country? If the people to whom you said farewell had requested you to do something for them, would you attend to their requests wholeheartedly?
2. Jesus entrusted many things to his disciples because his work on this earth had not yet been finished. Today, as two thousand years have passed, are you willing to accept the baton that Jesus once entrusted to his disciples?
3. What is this unfinished work of Jesus? It is to proclaim to this world that Jesus has risen from the dead. We call this unchangeable good news the gospel. It is a message about the unceasing love of the eternal God. It is a life-giving good news. Are you willing to take up this unfinished work?
4. The strategy to proclaim the gospel is simple and easy to understand: beginning from Jerusalem, then in all Judea and Samaria, and finally to the end of the earth. Historically, this good news has already been proclaimed around the globe once. Recently, there are people who suggest that in this round, the gospel should be proclaimed with its beginning from China, and back to Jerusalem. What is your opinion about this suggestion? Do you want to be part of this movement? Where is your "Jerusalem?"

My thought/My prayer:

December 25 (Sunday) **Reflection**

*Material this week was prepared by Pastor Rosita Lee and Pastor Sai Yau Fan. Thank you!

**Source of the picture in cover page: <http://www.andong-ch.org>.

6th Week

December 19 - 25, 2016

6th Week: The Death and the Resurrection of Jesus

December 19 (Monday) **Preparation for the Last Supper** Mark 14:12-16

1. What were Jesus' instructions to His disciples for preparing the Passover?
2. When the two disciples followed Jesus' instructions, what did they find out?
3. After the disciples went into the city, they found things just as Jesus had told them. Why then did Jesus ask His disciples to do the preparations?

**God has His plan and arrangements, but He also gives us opportunities to participate in His plan. Amidst God's plan, are you willing to give out and participate? In the days of celebrating the birth of our Saviour, are you participating in spreading this good news?*

My thought:

My prayer:

December 20 (Tuesday) **Jesus on Trial** Matthew 26:57-68

1. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus, but they failed. Why were they unable to find evidence against Jesus?
2. Jesus knew very well that admitting that He is the Christ, the Son of God would cost Him His life. Why would He still make the admission?
3. During this trial, what humiliation did Jesus suffer?

** Jesus is God, and therefore He admitted that He was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is also man, but He did not sin. Therefore His enemies were not able to find evidence against Him. For the sake of accomplishing salvation and saving people, He was willing to suffer, to be falsely accused, mocked, insulted, beaten, and finally crucified to death on the cross. How should I response to all that Jesus had done for me?*

My thought:

My prayer:

December 21 (Wednesday) **Jesus Delivered to Pilate** Matthew 27:1-26

1. Judas had previously thought that Jesus would lead the Jews to overthrow the Romans. If the rebellion were to succeed, he would enjoy high position and wealth. But there was no indication that Jesus was going to do that. Did he betray Jesus because he was disappointed? Or were there other reasons?
2. We can see from 27:3 that Judas regretted that Jesus was sentenced to death. Thus, in betraying Jesus, he did not intend for Him to die. Given his regret, why did he not seek God's forgiveness, but instead committed suicide? Had he seek God's forgiveness, would he receive pardon? If one day you should fall into a similar situation, what lesson can you learn from Judas?

3. Since the Sanhedrin had no authority to impose the death penalty, they delivered Jesus to Pilate the governor. Pilate clearly understood that they had done that out of envy. Therefore, throughout the whole interrogation, he was in an involuntary and reactive state. What inspiration does this give you concerning your witness for the Lord? Are you proactive or reactive?
4. Pilate could not find any guilt in Jesus. So he brought up Barabbas as a delaying tactic, thinking that he could use this to release Jesus. He did not foresee that the crowd would rather release the notorious robber Barabbas than Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Does this not fulfill the truth that Jesus came to earth to be the ransom for the sins of the world?

My thought:

My prayer:

December 22 (Thursday) **The Death of Jesus** Matthew 27:32-56

1. Large iron nails went through Jesus' hands and feet when he died. The execution ground was called the Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). Golgotha means "skeleton" in Cantonese. Did the execution of Jesus fulfill the saying, "[The offspring of the woman] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" from Genesis 3:15?
2. Among the bystanders of Jesus' execution, there were soldiers who were simply following orders from their officials. They were so familiar with the scene of crucifixion. Out of boredom, they divided Jesus' garments among them by casting lots, similar to lottery games nowadays.
3. At the scene of crucifixion, there were mockers. From a human perspective, weren't their mockeries reasonable? If Jesus is God, can he not save himself from this horrific situation because he should be able to ask legions of angels to rescue him? Since there was no rescue from heaven, Jesus must then be a pretender? Have you ever thought of this question?
4. Jesus was silent the entire time. When he cried loudly, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?", bystanders went up to him with sour wine. They hoped to extend Jesus' life a little longer to find out if Elijah the prophet would come to rescue Jesus. They were bystanders seeking excitement.
5. Most of Jesus' disciples were not present at the execution ground. From another Gospel, we know that his "beloved disciple," his mother Mary and a few female followers were present at the scene of crucifixion.
6. Finally, let us reflect. If we were at Jesus' crucifixion, would we be among the people who sought after excitement, the mockers, or Jesus' "beloved disciple" and his female followers?

My thought:

My prayer: