
PALM SUNDAY

Read Matthew 21:1-17

April 13, 2025

This week, we'll read Matthew's account of the week leading up to Jesus's death. You'll need to set aside a little extra time most days for reading.

One of the most shocking thing about the events of this week is the transition in the attitude of the crowd. On Sunday, they call "Bless Him!" On Friday, they call "Crucify Him!"

We all want to think that we would call "Hosanna", but never "Crucify." But the season of Lent is meant to help us recognize that our propensity toward sin is staggering.

*Spend some time today
contemplating your own
capacity for sin. Confess your
deep need for rescue to
Jesus.*

MONDAY

Read Matthew 21:18-23:39

April 14, 2025

Monday begins with Jesus cursing a fig tree. This is intended as a parable of what follows- the failure of the religious institution to do what it was created for.

These chapters outline the utter inability of the religious leaders of the time to grasp what God was up to.

This is a good opportunity for us who have been part of the Church for a long time to confess our blindness to what God is doing and ask for His help to see.

Today, ask God to reveal any place where you have gotten too comfortable in thinking you "get" what God is up to more than others. Ask for His forgiveness and healing.

TUESDAY

Read Matthew 24:1-26:5

April 15, 2025

Tuesday of Holy Week finds Jesus speaking about His return. Why was this on His mind as the cross came near?

And He knew that a lot of
really difficult things were
going to happen to them
before they died.

He wanted them to be ready
to face the hard times, ready
to endure the darkness.

He wanted them to believe that He WAS coming back and all they needed to do is focus on the mission He would give them in Matthew 28.

*As you read these chapters,
is there a challenge to you
about staying ready for
Jesus' return? About staying
focused on the Mission He
gave you?*

He knew that even after His resurrection, He wouldn't have long with His disciples before He returned to Heaven.

WEDNESDAY

Read Matthew 26:6-16

April 16, 2025

It's Wednesday of Holy Week and Jesus is again eating dinner with an outcast- a former leper.

While He's eating dinner, a woman came and poured expensive perfume on Jesus.

Jesus interprets this as a loving act to prepare Him for the burial He knows is coming. The burial He has been trying to get His disciples ready for, but they seem to keep missing what He's saying.

As this unnamed woman
annoints Jesus, Judas is
deciding to betray Jesus. He
can't live with the idea of a
Messiah who gets killed- so
maybe he thinks he can force
Jesus's hand... get Jesus to
assert power and
demonstrate who He is... but
of course we know what
actually happens.

When Jesus acts in ways we
don't understand or expect,
what is our reaction? To
worship or to walk away?

Today, confess your tendency to respond to God's plan being different than yours with retreat or betrayal rather than worship. Spend some time in worship, whatever that looks like for you.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Read John 13:1-17;
Matthew 26:36-75*

April 17, 2025

On the night before Jesus is murdered, He is with His disciples. All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) tell the story of this last meal.

What would you do if it was
your last night on earth?
Have a great meal? Go sky-
diving? Jesus wrapped a
towel around His waist and
washed His disciples' feet.

He washed Peter's feet, who constantly got it wrong. He washed Judas' feet, who was about to betray Him to death. What a beautiful act of love.

*Imagine Jesus, knowing all
your sin and brokenness,
washing your feet, with love
in His eyes.*

*Sit in this moment for a
while, and sense His love for
you.*

GOOD FRIDAY

Read Matthew 27:1-61

April 18, 2025

It's so unfair. It's wrong. The things they did to Him. Said to Him. The way they conspired against Him. Mocked Him. Beat Him. Pushed thorns into His head. Hung him on a cross.

And through it all, He was
silent. He could have called
thousands of angels. He
could have struck all his
abusers dead.

But He didn't.

And at the moment of his death, the temple curtain was torn. People rose from the dead. Even in His death... amazing.

Today, spend some time in silence, reflecting on this chapter of Matthew. Imagine yourself there.

*Allow yourself to see, smell,
hear, feel what it must have
been like.*

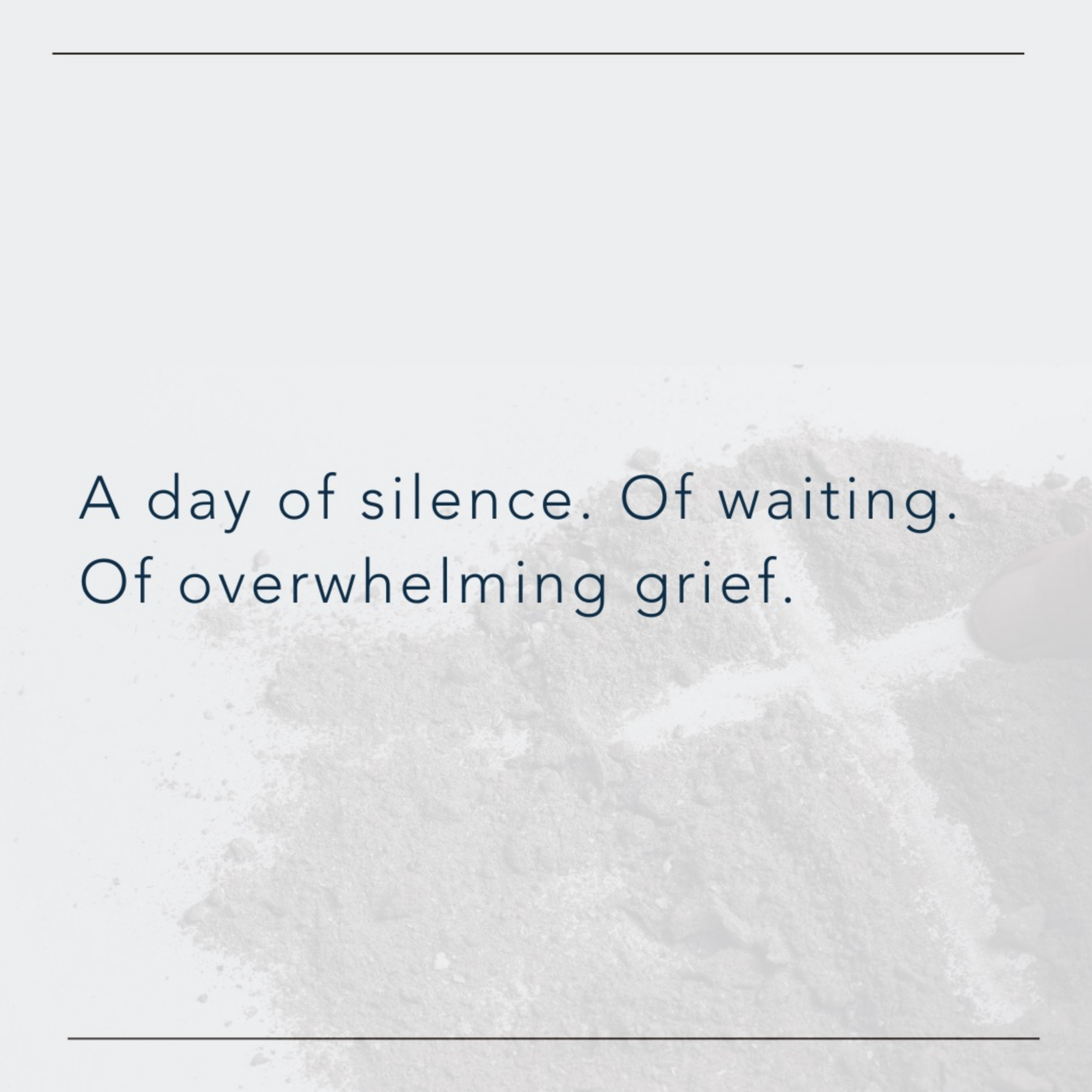
*And say, with the centurion,
"Surely this man is the Son of
God."*

HOLY SATURDAY

Read Matthew 27:62-66

April 19, 2025

They posted a guard. Put a government seal on His tomb. How offensive this must have been to the grieving. Not even allowed to grieve without government intervention.



A day of silence. Of waiting.
Of overwhelming grief.



But Sunday is coming.

If you are able, spend some time today in silence.

Imagine what this Sabbath day must have felt like to Jesus' followers.

*Consider times in your life
where it has felt like Holy
Saturday. Like all is lost.
Perhaps this is a season like
that. Allow yourself to feel
the grief of this day.*

*Only when we acknowledge
the despair of the silent Holy
Saturday can we appreciate
the joy of Easter Sunday.*
