

Daily Devotions for the Week of April 14

Monday (4/14)

Then Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. (Matthew 21.12) Jesus started Holy Week with a "Big Bang" as tables and chairs were overturned – a blow to the status quo.

Tuesday (4/15)

When Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease, a woman came to him with a vase made of alabaster containing very expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' head while he was sitting at dinner. (Matthew 26. 6-7) Jesus saw this as a preparation for his death and burial.

Wednesday (4/16)

Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. (Matthew 26.14-15) This week Jesus was betrayed and would be denied by his close friend.

Thursday (4/17)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. (Matthew 26.26-27) On this night Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples.

Friday (4/18)

From noon until three in the afternoon, the whole earth was dark. At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me? (Matthew 27.45-46) Today, for three hours, Jesus hung on the cross and then died.

Saturday (4/19)

The next day, which was the day after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember that while that deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will arise.'" (Matthew 27.62-63) On Saturday, the Pharisees asked Pilate for guards at the tomb. And the world waited.