



A LENTEN STUDY ON THE PLACES *of the* PASSION

Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12 noon – March 1st – April 5th, 2022

Facilitators: Rev. Geoff Ross & Jean Bradshaw

A six-week study of the places of Jesus' last hours.

Session 1: Tues., March 1st Introduction: The City of Jerusalem

Session 2: Tues., March 8TH The Mount of Olives & Bethany

Session 3: Tues., March 15th The Garden of Gethsemane

Session 4: Tues., March 22nd The High Priest's Courtyard

Session 5: Tues., March 29th Pilate's Judgment Hall

Session 6: Tues., April 5th Golgotha



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Introduction: Jerusalem; The "City of Peace" that kills its Prophets

Every Lent and Holy Week we read the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, His arrest, trial, and Crucifixion, but the events of Jesus' final hours can be overwhelming and confusing. It was for the disciples. But not for Jesus. Jesus knew what was in store for Him in Jerusalem - He even lamented that Jerusalem was *"the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"* (Luke 13:34) - yet He still went! And, He did what He had to do. At each location over His last hours, Jesus spoke God's truth to the 'powers' of this world, and these powers killed Him for it.

On the night of his betrayal, *"the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him."* (John 18:12) The Messiah who had come *"to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners"* (Isaiah 61:1) was Himself oppressed, bound, held captive - awaiting trial and execution. Over the next 24 hours, Jesus now a prisoner, was led all over Jerusalem: first to the house of the High Priest, then to the judgement hall of the Roman Governor; from there He was taken to Herod's palace, then back to the Governor's hall and, finally, to the execution site called Golgotha, located outside of the city walls. At every place, and very likely along the way, the Saviour was beaten and ridiculed, until He was finally nailed to the Cross where He died.

All of this movement can be confusing. Despite reading and studying the Holy Week accounts for years, it wasn't until I had visited Jerusalem several times that I was able to fully understand the frantic, chaotic, energy of Jesus' last hours as He was hustled from place to place to be tried. To do all this they crossed the city 3 times - and that's a lot of walking! To give you an idea: on my last trip to Jerusalem, I walked over 22,000 steps - or 16.65 kms - from the Mount of Olives, around the Temple Mount to the High Priest Caiaphas' house, back to the Temple, then to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre - the traditional site of Golgotha; and I didn't cover every step of Jesus' last hours!

I believe that there's value in knowing the movement of Jesus' last hours. Each stop of these last hours of Jesus' life drew Him closer to the Cross - and they also served to fulfill His reason for being with us as Emanuel, the incarnated Son of God. Visiting these places helps us understand that Jesus' death was no accident - or even a mistake. As I've said, Jesus knew what was in store for Him in Jerusalem. Knowing more about these 'places' makes them real and adds to our faith.

My hope is that you will join me and Jean Bradshaw for a 6-week Lenten Bible Study (Tuesdays starting March 1st) on the Places of the Passion as we look at what was happening and why it was important. This Lent, I invite you to join us as we go with Jesus to each these places, and along with Him - are drawn to the Cross.