

This year the Abide community of churches are choosing to fast and pray for the 21 days leading up to Easter Sunday and our celebration of The Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus is THE EVENT of history!

Everything changed when Jesus walked out of that tomb. Forgiveness of sins, access to the Father, and the possibility of life, both abundant and eternal, became reality for all who make the confession, “Jesus is Lord.”

However, the Road to The Resurrection goes by the way of the cross—Jesus is the CRUCIFIED, Risen, Savior. The cross is the strongest evidence of God’s love and His willingness to pay the highest price imaginable to rescue a lost, rebellious creation.

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Cor. 5:21

For the next 21 days we hope you will join believers throughout the Heartland in prayer and fasting as we remember the great price of our salvation; as we confess and repent of sin; as we seek God’s face and cry out to Him for revival in our own lives and in our churches; so that on Easter Sunday, with clean hearts and joined-hands, we might celebrate The Resurrection together. Join us on this Road to The Resurrection so that our community might experience the unity of His Church, and catch a glimpse of “On earth as it is in Heaven”— to the praise of His Glory!

The Abide21 Pastors

Day 1

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

“When you give to the needy... when you pray...when you fast...”

Note that Jesus doesn't say, “**If** you give; **if** you pray; **if** you fast.” He says, **when**. Throughout the gospels we find Jesus making some assumptions about those who follow God and belong to the Kingdom. Giving and praying and fasting are ways we respond to grace.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 2

Hebrews 3:1-14

“Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house.”

To “consider” means to think carefully about something or someone; to examine. The disciplines of prayer and fasting not only call us to “consider” Jesus—they provide us the time to do so.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 3

Hebrews 12:1-3

“Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

The Road to The Resurrection calls us to consider what Jesus endured to purchase our redemption.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 4

John 1:19-42

**“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world...
And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of
God.”**

The Road to The Resurrection calls us to know and bear witness that Jesus **is** the Son of God.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 5

Luke 4:16-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

The Road to The Resurrection calls us to know what Jesus said about Himself.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 6

Matthew 5:1-16

“Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them...”

The Sermon on the Mount is Kingdom orientation. Orientation, or “to be oriented” means to be intellectually, emotionally, or functionally directed. Learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus requires a re-orienting because it moves us off a self directed agenda and on to God’s agenda.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 7

Matthew 16:13-19

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is? “But who do you say that I am?”

WHO do YOU say that He is?

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 8

Mark 8:34-38

“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”

To travel the Road to The Resurrection is to discover that there's a cross for me as well.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 9

Mark 10:35-45

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

The life of Jesus is a life-for-others. Is this the life that the world sees in me?

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 10

Matthew 4:1-11

But He answered, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

It is written. It is written. It is written.

The Road to The Resurrection points us to the Word of God—so that we can see what God sees; so that we can say what God says.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 11

Matthew 17:1-9

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 12

John 10:1-21

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Road to The Resurrection is the invitation of abundant life to those who know the Good Shepherd.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 13

John 11:45-57

So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

The Gospel is always a threat to a religion more concerned with “losing its place” than obedience to God.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 14

Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11

And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!”

It's remarkable how quickly Sunday's, "Hosanna!" became Good Friday's, "Crucify Him!" The world has always been quick to reject the God who IS when it discovers He's not the god it wanted.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 15

Mark 11:15-19

“Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

This week, we encourage you to read any of the Gospel accounts of what took place between Palm Sunday and Good Friday. When you do, you’ll discover some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus occurred during those five days.

Jesus—knowing full well what was coming—chose daily, to pour out the Words of Life to all who would listen.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 16

Luke 20:19-26

He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”

As citizens of a Republic, we're to honor the authority of the Republic; but as citizens of a Kingdom our highest allegiance is to The King.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 17

Matthew 26:3-5; 14-16

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 18

Maundy Thursday John 13

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

(The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word in the Latin rendering of John 13:34, "A new commandment (*mandatum novum*) I give you...")

Day 19

Good Friday John 19

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read,

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

At the same time that the Passover lambs were slain, The Lamb of God hung on the cross and gave up His life.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 20

Silence Isaiah 53:1-6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?

Day 21

Resurrection Sunday Matthew 28:1-20

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said.

AND. EVERYTHING. CHANGED.

- What do I see in this passage?

- How do I need to respond?