

# 2026 Easter Booklet

*Triumphal Entry to Empty Tomb*

March 29 - April 5, 2026

# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TO EMPTY TOMB

This booklet is specially designed to accompany your spiritual journey, tracing the footsteps of the King during the most crucial period of time – from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This is a very important season to reflect on radical love, immeasurable sacrifice, and hope that never fades or wavers. Prepare and open your heart to be calibrated according to the rhythm of the King's heartbeat, so that you may:

- Have the mind of Christ, which prioritizes the Father's will above personal desires.
- Love without limits.
- Live in hope that the darkest moments in your life has been defeated by the power of His resurrection.
- Be enthusiastic in carrying out His calling to spread the news of Christ's victory.

Use this booklet as your daily "map" for the next 8 days following these steps:

- Set aside your best dedicated time each day (morning or evening before rest is recommended).
- Read the listed Bible verses and devotional text with sincere reflection.
- Answer the brief reflection questions provided and bring them to the Lord in personal prayer.
- Make a commitment to step forward in obedience to God's Word as a personal project.
- Record important insights and your commitments in the special notes section provided.

Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026

# The King Who Subverts Expectations

*Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-19*

Each of us surely has expectations when following the Lord Jesus — what are our expectations when following Him? Sometimes we find ourselves holding expectations that are quite reasonable: healing from a terminal illness, better income when daily survival is already a struggle, justice when treated unfairly, and so on. This was also the cry of the people of Israel as they welcomed the Lord Jesus: *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"* The word Hosanna means *"save us"*. There is a plea within that cry, born from their troubled state under the rule of foreign nations. They were expecting Jesus to arrive as a great king who would bring victory through warfare, ultimately granting them peace.

But the Lord Jesus showed a different path from their expectations. There was a peace they

desperately needed — reconciliation with God. To that end, the path Jesus took was a deeply descending one: from glorious heaven to a darkened world, walking through suffering, revolting mockery, a crown of coarse thorns, until He gave His very life on the cross. If we have ever thought that the Lord Jesus does not care about our lives, He has in fact gone far beyond our expectations, giving us the most precious — Himself. Therefore, the path we take should not be to merely fulfill our expectations but rather to humble our hearts to submit to the will of God.

## Reflection Question

- Look into your own heart — what kind of Jesus have you been expecting all this time? Do you want Jesus to fulfill your every desire, or do you submit yourself to Him?
- If there is someone around you who is disappointed or angry with God because their expectations seem unfulfilled in Jesus, would you be willing to pray for them, so that one day they may understand how much Jesus truly loves them?

# Obedience Project

Perform one act of love or assistance toward someone who could never repay your kindness, or toward someone who has long been overlooked by those around them. Do this in secret, without telling anyone — as a practice of following in the footsteps of the King who serves.

## Commitment Prayer

*"Lord Jesus, how wonderful is Your salvation way — giving Yourself to the lowest point. Help me to live not seeking a stage in this world, but like You, living in humility and love so that I may be a witness to those who do not know You yet. Amen."*

***"When we desire Jesus according to our own version of Him, we are seeing Jesus as a king who is too small and too narrow... Jesus is the only king we need, and He knows we need Him — hence He gave all of Himself."***

Monday  
March 30, 2026

# Judgment of the Fruitless

*Matthew 21:18-22; 24:32-35*

True Christianity goes beyond mere belief in Christ; it demands a fruitful life. Both faith in Christ and bearing fruit are facilitated by the Holy Spirit, making them both achievable. Salvation in Christ encompasses both aspects, so it's impossible to choose one over the other.

Believing in Christ is the cornerstone of salvation by grace (Eph. 2:8). Once this foundation is established, a person should embark on a journey of sanctification, characterized by a life filled and guided by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). This transformative life will inevitably yield the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Notably, there are no laws prohibiting such virtues (Gal. 5:22-23). Consequently, a life that bears the Fruit of the Spirit serves as a tangible testament to one's unwavering faith in Christ.

In reality, there's often a significant disconnect in the understanding of salvation when it relates to a life that bears no fruit. This is evident in His own teachings: *"Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?'"* (Matt. 7:21-22). Christ's response is clear: *"Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (v 23).

Who cries out, prophesies, drives out demons, and performs miracles? Surely, those who claim to believe in Christ. However, why does Christ turn them away? Because they did not do the Father's will; instead, they practiced lawlessness, which is the evidence of an unfruitful life. Both John the Baptist and Christ firmly declare the same truth: *"Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them"* (Matt. 3:8; cf. 7:20). Therefore, the core question is: Is our life bearing fruit or not? If not, judgment will surely come.

The cursing of the fig tree serves as a testament to His divine truth. According to the biblical account, when Christ was hungry, He spotted a fig tree and approached it, hoping to find some fruit to satisfy His hunger. However, to His disappointment, He discovered that the tree bore no fruit, as it was not the season for figs (Matt 21:19). So Christ cursed it: *"May you never bear fruit again!"* Immediately the tree withered and died. What was wrong? A large fig tree is marked by its many leaves; typically, small buds appear in the leaf axils that grow into young figs. This cursed fig tree was barren. That was the reason.

A fruitless Christian life is undoubtedly barren. This reflects a superficial Christianity, even a worldly one (1 Cor 3:1). This is false Christianity because it does not lead a fruitful life and no life transformation resulting from new creation. The old self persists. Even though they should already be mature Christians by age, however they remain childish (1 Cor 13:11; cf. Heb 5:12). It's truly ironic. Repentance is the call to bear fruit. Otherwise, we will experience what John the Baptist warned: *"The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire"*

(Matt 3:10). This is a stern warning that every believer must heed. There is still time. Examine yourself immediately. A fruitful life is not optional—it is essential!

## Reflection Question

- If Christ were to examine your life today, would He only find impressive outward religious activity, while your life is actually bearing no real fruit?
- What is one concrete area of your life that you will surrender today to be pruned by the Holy Spirit, so that His fruit might begin to appear?

## Obedience Project

Try practicing one Fruit of the Spirit each day. The next day, practice a different one — until you have worked through all nine Fruits of the Spirit. Upon completion, evaluate yourself: What was the result?

# Commitment Prayer

*"God the Holy Spirit, Your Word is crystal clear for every believer – we must live a fruitful life. Even though this is not easy, I need the help of the Holy Spirit so that the life I live may be transformed and bear fruit according to Your will. Thank You. Amen."*

***"A fruitful Christian life is a life that abides in Christ, producing the character of love and making an impact on others."***

Tuesday  
March 31, 2026

# Radical Humility

*John 13:1-17*

Humility is always captivating. I once watched a television story that went viral because it was revealed that a senior executive of a renowned and large company served in a church—not in a prominent or attention-grabbing role, but as a parking attendant. It was truly exhausting, hot, and unglamorous work, yet he faithfully performed it for years and assisted countless congregants who came to worship. Most of the congregation remained unaware of his identity until one day, one of his subordinates happened to visit and worship at the same church.

Humility is always compelling because it feels so rare. What can we learn from the humility of Jesus?

**First,**

consider who did it. The humility of Jesus is truly remarkable, considering His divine nature as the majestic and glorious God who created the

universe. Despite deserving to be worshipped, He willingly sacrificed His glory and assumed the role of a humble servant, even going so far as to wash the feet of His disciples. This act was unprecedented and would have been unthinkable for any rabbi before Jesus.

## ***Second,***

consider the act itself. What sets Jesus' actions apart is His unwavering willingness to perform what was deemed a humble task. Washing another person's feet is not an option for someone with power or choice. It was a task reserved for those who had no other option but to obey the commands given to them. Jesus consciously chose to wash His disciples' feet, demonstrating His humility and selflessness.

## ***Third,***

consider the recipients of His act. Which is more challenging — serving a stranger or serving someone who has hurt you or will hurt you? Remarkably, Jesus exemplified this by washing the feet of all His disciples, including the one who would betray Him and the one who would deny Him. He demonstrated unwavering humility and service, extending His compassion not only

to those He loved and who loved Him, but also to those who would betray Him.

Is humility truly rare in today's world? It appears rare because people often judge others based on their appearance. However, the example of Jesus stands out because we have a clear understanding of His character, and the biblical writers have vividly portrayed Him as our role model. This is different from our own circumstances, where we may not always be aware of those who have faithfully served others with humility. In reality, there are many individuals who are respected in their workplaces but did not carry that same identity into the church or other places of service. Instead, they diligently perform invisible, even humble acts of service with unwavering willingness.

# Reflection Question

- Do you yourself possess humility? Have you served others as Christ modeled? Do you choose whom to serve — perhaps serving wholeheartedly those you do not know, while being reluctant to serve those who have hurt you?
- Try to identify the faithful servants of God who serve others with humility. If today you feel that humility is so rare, perhaps you have been using the wrong perspective to evaluate others. Let us learn from God's children who faithfully serve with humility, without seeking empty praise.

## Obedience Project

If you have never taken part in a ministry, commit to taking on one area of service which requires many people. If you are already serving, observe and express appreciation to a fellow co-worker who embodies the principle of Jesus' humility in your shared ministry.

# Commitment Prayer

*"Teach me to have a heart like Yours, so that I am willing to serve my neighbor as You have modeled. Amen."*

***"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."***

*John 13:14-15*



Wednesday  
April 1, 2026

# The Price of Betrayal

*Matthew 26:14-16; 27:3-10*

Judas Iscariot. This name has become synonymous with the word "traitor" in our minds. He is perhaps one of the most despised figures in the entire Bible – even throughout man history. But could it be that we hate Judas not because he was so evil, but because we actually see a part of ourselves in him?

Who was Judas? Some scholars believe the name "Iscariot" originates from Sicarii, a revolutionary organization with a similar objective to the Zealots: opposing the Roman occupation of Israel. They yearned for a political Messiah who would defeat the Roman Empire through military means.

Judas may have been like many of us – was enthusiastic when first getting to know the Lord Jesus. Just as Judas had the expectation that Jesus would defeat Rome, we too have expectations that He will resolve many problems

in our lives and grant us conveniences. Yet those conveniences did not come. For Judas, the liberation and military victory he eagerly awaited did not materialize.

So what did he do? He sold the Lord Jesus in order to be rid of Him. His reasoning was simple: "If He does not fulfill my expectations, what use is He in my life?" Worse still, he carried out this betrayal with a kiss. This is also what we often do. We betray the Lord whom we think has not met our expectations, but not through outright apostasy. We betray Him while kissing Him: still showing up in church, still serving, still appearing devout — yet we have long stopped obeying Him.

Judas ended tragically. He chose to end his own life rather than return to the Lord Jesus who would have extended forgiveness to him. Why? Because for someone like Judas, the love and forgiveness of God were not important. What mattered was only whether God could fulfill his expectations.

That is the price that betrayers must pay — they come to Him not to enter His kingdom, but only to bring Him into theirs.

# Reflection Question

- Have you ever been disappointed with God because He did not fulfill your expectations?
- How do you treat the people around you? Do you tend to see them only as instruments to achieve something?

## Obedience Project

Write down your prayers and observe which ones God has not answered. Reflect on why God has not answered those particular prayers. Are you perhaps trying to bring God into your kingdom?

## Commitment Prayer

*"Lord, forgive me if I have come to You not because I love You and surrender my life to You in obedience. I often have personal expectations and desires that unknowingly cause me, to betray You repeatedly. Teach me to continually surrender to Your ways and trust that You will give what is best. Amen."*

***"We betray Him while kissing Him: still showing up in church, still serving, still appearing devout – yet we have long stopped obeying Him."***

Thursday  
April 2, 2026

# Absolute Submission

*Matthew 26:36-46*

In Gethsemane, we witness the zenith of the Savior's struggle. At this lowest point, the fear that consumed His heart could no longer be concealed. He openly expressed it to His disciples, saying, *"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."* In particular, He poured out this profound emotion in prayer to the Father in the solitude of that moment—a space shrouded in thick darkness. Only He could fully comprehend the depths of the suffering He would soon endure to fulfill the work of redemption.

Yet, Christ did not surrender and stop there. His resolve could not be overcome by the limitations of His humanity or corrected by His fear. He remained anchored to the Father's will as the center of gravity of His life. Therefore, Gethsemane did not end in defeat, unlike the Garden of Eden, where sin became an inseparable

part of human history because Adam, the first man, rebelled against God, saying, *"My will be done, not Yours."* Instead, it ended in victory through Christ's submission to God's will, expressed as, *"Not my will, but Yours be done."* The answer to the prayer sought was not the removal of the cup at any cost, but rather, *"Your will be done,"* even at the cost of sacrificing Himself, the ultimate pinnacle of His submission. With this, Christ resolutely stepped forward, embracing the bitter cup of God's wrath so that redemption would be complete and the Father's will be satisfied.

As He said, *"Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"* He emerged as a victor whose heartbeat resonated with the Father's will. For it is through absolute submission to the Father's plan that the singular path to redemption was perfectly fulfilled. Gethsemane stands as the decisive reversal and victory over Eden, aptly described by Max Lucado as "Gethsemane's Reversal of Eden." As Lucado poignantly puts it, *"He sees your struggle in your personal 'Gethsemane' and He will not let you face it alone. He chose to endure death—hell—for your sake, rather than be in Heaven without you."*

Submission to God's will is not just a step toward victory; it becomes the lifestyle of those who have been redeemed. Continuously aligning our will with God's will in every aspect of life should be the hallmark of our journey. Let us persistently learn to embrace the commitment: "Your will be done, not mine" — as we navigate through every chapter of life, embracing its complexities and dynamics.

## Reflection Question

- Name one area of your life that is most difficult to relinquish control of to God.
- When you see people around you who are struggling, do you tend to "fall asleep" out of indifference like the disciples, or are you willing to be present and to empathize as Christ is — not wanting us to face problems alone? How can your obedience to God this week become a source of hope or a tangible touch to those who are losing their way?

# Obedience Project

Carry out one act of obedience this week that is the most difficult for your ego. For example: being the first to apologize in a conflict where you are actually the right party, or giving time to a ministry you have long postponed with the excuse of being busy. Then make a commitment to learn to submit yourself to God's will.

## Commitment Prayer

*"I am grateful that You did not back away from that bitter cup, so that I would not have to bear God's wrath. All of this is because of Your great grace. I commit to learning to entrust myself fully to Your will. May my life no longer be about personal achievement, but about the path of surrender — so that my life is always in rhythm with the beat of Your heart. Amen."*

***"Sin began in a Garden (Eden), and the redemption from that sin also had to begin in a Garden (Gethsemane). If Eden was the place where humanity fell by seeking itself, Gethsemane is the place where Christ won by denying Himself."***

Good Friday  
April 3, 2026

# The Perfect Sacrifice

*John 19:28-30; Mark 15:16-41*

In a world accustomed to transactions, we adopt the mindset of “you get what you pay for.” We work diligently to be valued and strive for acceptance. However, we often apply this same logic to our relationship with God. Unbeknownst to us, faith transforms into human effort, as if salvation still requires our own goodness. But the events of Good Friday shatter this transactional perspective.

John 19:28–30 and Mark 15:16–41 vividly depict the zenith of Christ’s suffering and the profound work of redemption that unfolded on the cross. John’s account captures Jesus’ final utterance: “*Tetelestai*” — “It is finished.” (v. 30). This was not a cry of despair, but rather a declaration of victory. It was not a whisper of exhaustion, but a final affirmation that the mission of redemption had been fully accomplished. No sin remains. The debt of our sins — an insurmountable burden for us

to repay through morality, service, or goodness— has been completely settled by Christ through His death. Mark 15, on the other hand, delves into the depths of His suffering and the perfection of Jesus' sacrifice. He endured mockery, flogging, the crown of thorns, shame, crucifixion as a criminal, and death — all despite His innocence (2 Cor. 5:21). This stark portrayal underscores the immense cost of redemption. He became the Lamb who bore the punishment for our sins (1 Pet. 2:24). Unlike animal sacrifices that required continuous repetition, Christ's sacrifice was made once for all (Heb. 9:28).

Therefore, the cross proclaims the truth that salvation is not achieved through human effort, but through God's grace (Eph. 2:8–9). Cease attempting to “bribe” God with your own goodness. Instead, receive with faith that the work of Christ on the cross is sufficient. Live as someone whose debt of sin has been fully paid — with a grateful heart, obedience, and love (Matt. 22:37, 39).

# Reflection Question

- In which areas are you still trying to "pay" for your salvation with good deeds, spiritual achievement, or ministry — rather than fully relying on the work of Christ on the cross?
- If you truly believe that your life has been "paid in full," what changes should be visible in the way you live, love, and obey God today?

## Obedience Project

For the next week, refrain from using religious acts as "bargaining chips" with God, such as serving to feel worthy, praying out of fear, or doing good to be accepted. Instead, perform one act of obedience, like sharing the Gospel with someone, as a response of gratitude for the love and salvation you have received from Christ.

# Commitment Prayer

*"Lord Jesus, I am grateful for Your perfect sacrifice on the cross. I acknowledge that I often still try to appear worthy before You through my own strength and goodness. Today I choose to stop relying on myself and humbly accept that the work of Your cross is sufficient – it is finished, and is valid for my life. Help me to faithfully witness and proclaim the Gospel not to earn Your love, but as a response of gratitude for Your grace. Enable me to walk each day in faith, hope, and love, to glorify Your name. Amen."*

***"The essence of the gospel is this: we are more sinful than we ever dared believe, yet more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope."***

*Timothy Keller*

Saturday  
April 4, 2026

# Demolishing the Barrier of Sin

*Luke 23:44-56*

The tearing of the temple veil, as noted by Luke and the other Gospel writers, was not merely a minor detail. The temple curtain had long been strongly emphasized by God as a symbol representing the separation between the Most Holy and the unholy. It was not just a covering concealing the contents of the Most Holy Place; it radiated a profound and serious terror that sinful humanity had to overcome to approach the Holy God.

None of us could truly comprehend that terror. Only the Lord Jesus Christ had the strength to endure it. Many people that day were undoubtedly horrified to witness the naked and humiliated body at the summit of Calvary. Yet, it's peculiar that the centurion who crucified Jesus exclaimed, *"Surely this man was righteous!"* and those who

witnessed the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus returned home, beating their chests—as if what they had seen was not merely about a body torn apart, but something far beyond that. The intensity and fear of the event were so profound that it was not coincidental that nature was plunged into darkness, as if unable to bear witness to such a momentous occasion.

He who deserved to be glorified chose to be shamed in full horror — so that we might have access to the Father without a curtain, without judgment, without shame, and without punishment. Therefore, believers do not come before the Father with our own efforts to be accepted by the Father. We come before the Father because we have already been accepted — and because of that, we do everything for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Reflection Question

- Christians are highly likely to fall into one of two extremes when confronted with the grace of salvation: to belittle or despise grace. You might undervalue grace and continue to live in remorse for your sins, as if His blood was insufficient to tear that curtain. Alternatively, you might despise grace by living carelessly without truly comprehending the terror endured to tear that curtain. Consider: which extreme do you find yourself grappling with more frequently?
- If Jesus was so willing to give Himself so that we might have access to the Father, how willing are you — who are called a “little Christ” — to give yourself so that others might come to know Jesus as their one and only Lord and Savior?

# Obedience Project

Before beginning your personal prayer:

1. Confess specifically one thing that usually makes you feel unworthy of coming before God;
2. Declare consciously: "The curtain has been torn. I come not because I am worthy, but because of Christ";
3. Do not postpone prayer until a feeling of "cleanliness" arrives. Come as you are.

## Commitment Prayer

*"Lord Jesus, help me, so that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Amen."*

***"The curtain has been torn: free access. Come boldly to the throne of grace."***

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

Easter Sunday  
April 5, 2026

# Absolute Victory Over Death

*Luke 24:1-12; 24:36-53*

Commemorating Easter is not just about marking a historical event; it's a pivotal moment in faith, transitioning from despair to hope. Jesus's death wasn't just an end; it signified his dominion over death itself. Easter commemorates the empty tomb and recalls the angel's proclamation: *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"* (Luke 24:5-6).

The death and resurrection of Jesus were not mere coincidences. They are integral to God's overarching narrative, demonstrating His unwavering faithfulness in fulfilling all His promises to humanity regarding salvation. Every event transpired precisely at the right moment, without any error, and was executed flawlessly.

Easter truly makes absolute victory over death a reality. Death, humanity's greatest enemy and

deepest fear, has been defeated. The tension in humanity's relationship with God, caused by the curse of sin, has been broken, and a peaceful relationship with the Creator is now within reach. This is precisely why the greeting of the risen Teacher, *"Peace be with you"* (Luke 24:36), was more than enough to dispel the fear and doubt that gripped the disciples' faith.

From fear, they embraced a life of hope, and even more so, they were prepared to become living witnesses to this message of hope, spreading it to the ends of the earth, as it is written: *"Repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things"* (Luke 24:47-48).

## Reflection Question

- On this commemoration of Easter, is there still doubt in your faith about living a life of hope in Christ, who has died and risen? Why?
- Does the commemoration of Easter remain a victory of faith proclaimed to the ends of the earth, or is it merely celebrated within the walls of the church?

# Obedience Project

Sing this personal/family song of commitment on this Easter day:

## **"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (Mengikut Yesus Keputusanku)**

*I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Though none go with me, I still will follow,  
Though none go with me, I still will follow,  
Though none go with me, I still will follow,  
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
No turning back, no turning back.*



Scan this QR  
to listen  
to the song  
on Youtube

# Commitment Prayer

*"Lord Jesus, forgive me if often fear and doubt still rule over me. Grant me a firm faith to view the problems of this life through the lens of absolute victory in You who have conquered death. Even if sorrow strikes and problems remain, strengthen my heart and fortify my faith to still see You – the risen Lord – who walks with me. May Your peace that surpasses all understanding continually be present in every step of my life and my family's, and use me to boldly be a living witness proclaiming Your Gospel to the ends of the earth. Amen."*

**"Easter is the time to cast aside sorrow and despair, for life has triumphed over death."**

*Phillips Brooks*



**no**  
**turning**  
**back** 

Consolidate to  
Move Forward