I) The Beginning Of Jesus’ Ministry

**Introduction:** John the baptizer is baptizing at Aenon near Salim - John 3:23

**The Baptism Of Jesus** *(Mt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22)*

* 30 years old - time to begin the work for which He had come
  * Jordan River - John baptizing  (show on map)
  * John has been told that God’s chosen Christ is one whom the Spirit descends upon and remains
  * One day - kinsman comes to be baptized (John did not know him to be the Christ)
  * “I need you to baptize me, not me you” (John)
  * “Permit it, so as to fully do what is right” (Jesus)
  * Holy Spirit - dove sits upon Him - voice - “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”
  * Father (voice) Son (human body) Holy Spirit (dove’s body)
  * Received Holy Spirit without measure - John 3:34

**The Wilderness Temptations** *(Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)*

* Immediately led by Spirit into deserted place  (show on map)
* Tempted the whole 40 days
* No food - Mark says He was with wild beasts
* Devil comes to tempt Him 3 last times at the end. These are recorded.
  1. If you are the son of God turn these stones to bread
     > Jesus remembers Deuteronomy 8:3 (see context)
     > Unauthorized use of power
     > Physical sustenance is not to be our greatest concern
     > Lessons: I must never place physical concerns over spiritual ones and unauthorized good projects are no good.
  2. Fall down and worship me and I will give you all these kingdoms
     > Deut. 6:13 - We must worship only God
     > Just this once - a small gesture to achieve a great result
     > Short and easy way - God’s plan will take longer and involve pain
     > Lesson: I must never compromise, even once, even if only a little thing or will be a shortcut to some end
  3. Jump off pinnacle of temple for the Bible says...
     > Psalm 91:11-12
     > It is written elsewhere - Deut. 6:16
> No contradictions in the Bible
> Misuse of the passage
> Self promoting, seeking praises of men, showy demonstration
> Lesson: I must not promote self, even in the name of the Lord

* Additional lessons
  1. Devil can use Scripture to get us to do wrong
  2. Jesus unapologetically appeals to Scripture every time
  3. Jesus resisted for our sake
  4. I can relate to my Savior better - Hebrews 4:15

**Some Early Disciples (Jn. 1:35-51)**
* John points out Jesus as the Lamb of God to 2 of his disciples (Andrew and ?... maybe John)
* They follow Jesus - Andrew fetches his brother Simon bar Jonah (son of Jonah) Cephas (aramaic) Peter = a stone (Greek)
* Andrew - “We have found the Messiah!”
* Jesus already knew who he was, his name and immediately changes it.
* Next day - He wants to go back north to Galilee
* Phillip - “Follow Me”
* Phillip tells Nathaniel we have found the Prophet that Moses spoke about
* Discuss Jesus’ interview with Nathaniel

**Jesus’ First Miracle (Jn. 2:1-11)**
* Returned to Galilee with His followers (show on map)
* Invited to a wedding banquet in Cana
* His mother Mary informs him the wine has run out
* Did she know He had power? “My hour has not yet arrived” - John’s ministry still in effect?
* “Woman” is not used disrespectfully
* 6 water pots (20-30 gal) maybe used for ceremonial washings
* Tells servants to fill them and take to maitre’d
* Tastes - calls bridegroom - best tasting normally used first - this is superior
* He has power over physical properties and quality
* There are no known boyhood miracles. This is the first miraculous sign of Him being divine

**First Passover Of His Ministry (Jn. 2:13-22)**
* Back to Jerusalem - 1st of 4 passovers before His death
* Went up is due to south’s higher elevation
* Animals being sold for sacrifices
* Money being changed into temple currency
* Makes a whip and drives them out - overturns tables
* “Get out! Take all this away! Don’t make my Father’s house a house of business!”
* Disciples are concerned and remember Ps. 69:9
* Note:
  1. The business was not wrong...but the place.
  2. Today in the church it is no different
* Jesus is questioned about His authority to do this
  > Destroy this temple - I will raise it up in 3 days
  > Jews say 46 years in building
  > John says He was speaking about His body
  > People begin to believe - Disciple remember after His resurrection
* Note:
  1. Jesus did not always correct every mistaken conclusion people drew
  2. He knew of His death and resurrection already
  3. The body is a temple
  4. Jesus knew what was in people’s hearts (2:23-25)

The Visit Of Nicodemus  (Jn. 3:1-21)
* One night a religious leader (member of 70 member Sanhedrin Council) comes to talk
  with Jesus
* He is interested. He is convinced He is from God due to the miracles
* Jesus - “Unless you are born again you cannot see the kingdom”
  > Remember: Jesus knew what was in his heart
  > Maybe he felt acceptable as is or his prominence could lend support and influence
  > A new spiritual beginning was required, even for Nicodemus!

Jesus In Judea  (John 3:22)
* Begins baptizing (John 4:1-2)
  > Others do the literal immersing - maybe due to not confusing this with His
    baptizing with the Holy Spirit to come later
* John’s ministry diminishes
* John imprisoned and eventually beheaded
* As word gets out that He is baptizing more than John He decides to go back to Galilee

The Samaritan Woman At The Well  (John 4:4-42)
* Heading north to Galilee through Samaria (see map)
* These were half Jews - intermixed with foreigners after Assyrian captivity
  > Despised by the Jews - no dealings with them
* Jacob’s well - near the town of Sychar
  > Rests while others go into town for food about noon
* Lessons:
  1. Jesus uses what is at hand to direct conversation into spiritual vein
2. Jesus did not let prejudice hinder him. eg. Samaritan, woman, adulterer for the 6th time
3. Fatigue is no excuse
4. The zeal to tell others of Christ
5. Spiritual food is satisfying
* He stays 2 days, then on to Galilee where he is welcomed by many who had seen the things He did during passover in Jerusalem.

II) The Galilean Ministry

Introduction: This period of the 3 year ministry of Jesus lasted for about 18 to 21 months, thus half or more of his preaching and miracles took place in Galilee (see map).

Nobleman’s Son Healed (John 4:46-54)
* Healing took place at 1:00 p.m. the day before!
* It is only a four hour walk from Cana back to Capernaum. Maybe he had faith, but not enough to send him right home.
* Jesus just said the word and he was healed!
* Could have healed everyone in the whole world. Why didn’t He?
* This is the second miracle in Galilee, not overall.

His Rejection In Nazareth (Luke 4:16-31)
* Reading the scroll of Isaiah in synagogue as was His custom
* People amazed at first - favorably impressed
* “Today, this scripture is fulfilled…”
* He knew and expressed their eventual rejection and His works being done elsewhere
* Similar to Elijah and Elisha
* The people get really upset - drive Him out of town to a cliff intending to throw him over
* He passes right through them and moves to Capernaum

* Eventually 12 chosen (Luke 6:12-16)
* “who also betrayed Him” (v.16) written after the fact
* “Apostle” means one sent out; commissioned ambassador - not to be confused with “disciple: which means follower.
* 3 years of preparation to take the gospel to the world
* Why were men chosen to do this? See II Corinthians 4:5-7
* Observations:
1. Interesting combination of men (e.g., Matthew was a tax collector working for the Roman government. Simon was a zealot, desirous of overthrowing the government of Rome)
2. Peter’s obeying at Jesus’ word and forsaking all
3. When humanity and divinity meet - “I am a sinful man”

The Early Days (Mark 1:21-45)
* Power over demons - “Come out” and they have to obey!
* Peter married (he had a mother-in-law)
* Spreading the word is forbidden
* His main purpose is not miracles but preaching - v. 38

Paralyzed Man Healed (Mk. 2:1-12; Mt. 9:2-8; Lk. 5:17-26)
* He saw their faith? What did He see?
* Which is easier to say?
* Only God can forgive...yes, and Jesus is God!
* Most important is sins forgiven (spiritual concerns take precedence)

Jesus And The Sabbath
* Healing lame man (John 5:1-16)
* Plucking Grain (Mk. 2:23-28)
* Healing withered hand (Mk. 3:1-6)
* Many desire now to kill Him
* Thought questions
  1. What is meant by “sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath?”
  2. Did Jesus break the sabbath?
  3. What had they done that made them think Jesus was breaking the sabbath?
  4. Is binding where God has not bound sinful? Give examples today.

Centurion’s Servant Healed (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10)
* A gentile has faith!
* A gentile respects authority
* A gentile exhibits true humility
* A gentile loves a slave and a foreign nation

Widow Of Nain’s Son Raised From Death (Lk. 7:11-17)
* Notice the compassion of Jesus (also later at Lazarus’ funeral “Jesus wept”)
* Just the word, “Young man, get up”
* Story spreads all over Israel

John The Immerser Demise (Mt. 11:2-19; Lk. 7:18-35)
* In prison now
* Sends messengers to Jesus expressing doubt? impatience?
* He praises John’s work
* Tax collectors rejoiced and justified God having been baptized
* Pharisees and lawyers reject God by not being baptized
* John’s lifestyle and Jesus’ opposites
  1. place for both
  2. some people hard to please
  3. Preconceptions of God and religion a real obstacle

**Woman Washes Jesus’ Feet (Lk. 7:36-50)**
* Imagine the scene
* Silver lining for sinners
* Dangerous to see self as good because we do not sin much
* No matter the sinful past - all are welcome into the kingdom

**Women Support Him (Lk. 8:1-3)**
* Maybe the apostles also
* Chuza’s wife Joanna maybe the wife of the nobleman whose son was healed

**A Typical Day (the following all seem to take place on same day)**
1. Accused of casting out demons by power of Beelzebub (Mk. 3:22-30)
   * Discuss blasphemy of Holy Spirit
   * Beelzebub - Philistine god
2. Scribes and Pharisees ask for a sign (Mt. 12:38-42)
   * A sign?
   * Jonah sign - Jesus aware of death and resurrection ahead of time
3. Mother and brothers arrive (Mk. 3:31-35)
   * Possibly more concerned for physical well-being (vs. 20-21)
   * No disrespect for relatives, but expression of priorities
4. Teaching with many parables (Mk. 4 ; Mt. 13)
   * 1000’s listening
   * Use of parables to illustrate, hide from opposition, and separate hearts
5. Crosses the sea of Galilee (Mk. 4:35-41)
   * Storm, but Jesus asleep
   * “Quiet! Be still.”
   * Stops immediately at His word
6. On the other side He heals a demoniac (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39)
   * Possessed by many demons
   * Permitted to enter swine (desire body to inhabit)
   * Did Jesus Know they would react this way?
   * Demon Discussion
     > Only found active in N.T.
     > Often manifested differently - epilepsy, blindness, insanity, etc.
Intelligent beings with knowledge of Jesus’ divinity
> Jesus talked with them
> They are aware of Jesus’ superiority - they need His permission
> Knew of their eventual fate (Luke says abyss; similar to Satan -Rev. 20:3)
> Still active today? No. (Zechariah 13:1-2)

7. Return to the other side (Mk. 5:21-43)
* Jairus’ daughter sick
* Woman with internal bleeding for 12 years touches garment and healed
* Importance of continued believing
* Daughter dies, but raised. Tell no one.

8. What a day!!!

The Limited Commission Of The Twelve Apostles (Mt. 10:5-26; Mk. 6:7-13; Lk. 9:1-6)
* Power given to do miracles
* Must not let opposition deter them
* Preach repentance and that the kingdom is almost here

III) The Periods Of Retirement

Introduction: There are maybe as many as 4 withdrawals from the masses to be with His apostles. It is now approximately 2 years into his teaching campaign and 1 year from His death.

The First Withdrawal (Mt. 14:13-21; Mk. 6:30-44; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-13)

A) Upon the return of apostles -time to relax
* Crosses sea in a boat - 1000’s hurry around to other side
* Not angry - miracles and teaching until evening
* Feeding Problem - Phillip - 200 days wages not enough
* Andrew - 5 barley loaves and 2 fish
* Groups of 50 (for counting purposes?) 5000 men (10,000+ total?)
* Thanks given first - 12 baskets left!!
* Try to make Him king - NO! Discuss Him not being an earthly king
* Mountain by himself to pray - apostles go ahead in boat

B) Walks on water (Mt 14:24-33; Mk. 6:47-52; Jn. 6:16-21)
* Storm arises - 3-6 a.m. Jesus walks on water
* A ghost! Peter asks to walk, too.
* Peter succeeds, then fails due to his lack of faith
* Immediately the wind stops and they are at shore

C) A sudden change takes place
* Next day Jesus is gone
* He addresses problem of people’s main attraction to Him being the healings and feedings.
* No spiritual needs recognized. Discusses being the bread of life.
* Belief in Him is a stumblingblock to many
* Many walk away
* Read Jn. 6:66-71
* The Galilean ministry collapses

**The 2nd Retirement** *(Mt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30)*

A) Tyre and Sidon (show on map)
* Desires seclusion
* Gentile woman cries out, “O Lord, Son of David” (relate story)
* Daughter healed of unclean spirit

B) Through Decapolis (10 cities region in SE)
* Deaf ad mute healed (fingers in ears, spits and touches tongue)
* 4000 men besides women and children fed with 7 loaves and a few fish
* Visits Dalmanutha - Pharisees and Sadducees question Him about a sign from heaven - none but sign of Jonah to be given.

**Further Efforts To Withdraw** *(duration of all - 6 mths approx.)*

A) Crosses over sea again
* Rebukes the spiritual dullness of apostles
* Bethsaida incident (Mk. 8:22-26)

B) Caesarea Philippi (23 miles north of Bethsaida)
* Only one conversation recorded
* “Who do men say that I am?” (Mt. 16:13-20)
* Peter = stone  Rock = ledge or bedrock = confession
* Keys to kingdom given to Peter, not headship

**Foretells Death and Resurrection** *(Mt. 16:21-26; Mk. 8:31-37; Lk. 9:22-25)*

* No accident coming
* Discuss misconception of the kingdom
* “Get behind me Satan”
* Earthly concerns must go second
* We must learn to sacrifice, deny yourself, take up a cross

**Transfiguration** *(Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36)*
* Probably Mt. Hermon (show on map)
* Face shone as the sun - clothes dazzling white
* Peter, James and John asleep; awake to the scene
* 3 tents of worship - did not know what to say
* Listen to My Son!
* Never closer to heaven
* Later recalled - II Peter 1:16-18
* Question Jesus about Elijah
* Do not speak of what seen until after resurrection

Demon Possessed Boy Healed (Mt. 17:14-20; Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:37-43)
* Failure of disciples earlier
* Father says, “If you can do anything.” “Lord I believe, help my unbelief”
* Faith, prayer and fasting of healer sometimes needful

Temple Tax Story (Mt. 17:24-27)
* Avoiding offense is Christ’s way
* Pay tax for conscience sake

Disputes Over Greatest In Kingdom (Mt. 18:1-14; Mk. 9:33-37; Lk. 9:46-48)
* Through assuming service, not position of appointment
* Jesus has a special place in His heart for little children

October - 6 Months Before His Death (Jn. 7:2-13)
* James (His brother) - “show yourself openly”
* Jesus- Timing not right yet

IV) The Close Of His Ministry

Introduction: Conflict and opposition grow and intensify.

Feast Of Tabernacles (John 7:1-8:1)
* An 8 day feast - harvest, day of atonement, remembrance of dwelling in tents in the wilderness
* Leading Jews look for Jesus - where is he?
* He has arrived secretly - late - but then goes to temple to teach
* Jewish leaders send soldiers to arrest Him - they return without Him
* “No one ever spoke like He does!” How was that?
* Much debate over whether Jesus is the Messiah
* He is from the wrong (?) place.

**Adulteress Story (John 8:2-11)**
* Where is the **man**? They said they had caught her in the **act**
* He who is without sin cast the first stone (Deut. 17:7) Witnesses are to go first.
* Writes with His finger on the ground. What?????
* All gone except the woman - now there are no witnesses
* Go and **sin** no more
* Discuss the expression, *He who is without sin*

**Jesus Heals A Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)**
* Who sinned? Discuss why they would ask such a thing.
* Prejudice!! What a hindrance to the truth.
* “If you were blind, you have no sin (v. 41)

* A huge success
* Jesus rejoices
* A foreshadow of the great commission later

**Mary And Martha (Luke 10:38-42)**
* Priorities, priorities, priorities!

**Luke 11-13 Survey**
* Teaches the disciples to pray (11:1-13)
* Answers charges of working for the Devil (14-36)
* While eating with a Pharisee He is questioned about not ceremoniously washing before eating
* Rebukes the Pharisees and lawyers
* Warnings about hypocrisy - chapter 12
  > Tell my brother to divide the inheritance
  > Beware of covetousness
  > Rich farmer story
  > lessons about worry, materialism, being spiritually watchful, and the cost of discipleship
* The need for all to repent - chapter 13
  > Heals a crippled woman on the sabbath (10-21)
  > Even with opposition rising, He still feels great sorrow for His people (22-35)
Feast Of Dedication (John 10:22-39)
* Rededicating temple celebration of Maccabees in 164 B.C. “Hanukkah”
* Winter - December - 3 months before crucifixion
* Attempts are made to stone Him
* Goes to Perea - east of Jordan
* Preaching and healing continues (Luke 14:1-24)

Lazarus Is Raised From The Dead (John 11:1-44)
* Jesus in Perea
* Mary and Martha send word from their home at Bethany that Lazarus is sick
* Knows that he is now dead after two days of waiting
* Another couple of days while traveling - 4 days in tomb - body decomposing
* “Loved” L,M, & M. Comment.
* Notice His empathy - weep with those that weep
* Reaction of chief Jews - (11:45-54)
  > What are we going to do?
  > Caiaphas unwittingly prophesies as high priest of Jesus dying for all mankind
  > He was not even aware of significance of what he said
  > Look for opportunity to seize Jesus
* Withdraws to a city called Ephraim

Journey To Jerusalem For Final Passover
* People begin to wonder if Jesus will go to feast (John 11:56)
* 10 lepers healed (Luke 17:11-19)
* Teaches about the nature of the kingdom, divorce laws, measure of true greatness, etc.
* Receives little children (Mt. 19:13-15; Mk. 10:13-16; Lk. 18:15-17)
* Tries to tell apostles of impending death and resurrection (Mt. 20:17-19; Mk. 10:32-34)
* Blind Bartimaeus and his companion healed (Mt. 20:29-34; Mk. 10:46-52; Lk. 18:35-43)
* Zacchaeus, the wee little man (Lk. 19:1-10)
  > No excuse to not see Jesus
  > Immediate and joyful response to Jesus’ words
  > Repentance will produce fruit both past and future
  > Rich and outcasts of society can be saved!
* Arrives at Bethany, near Jerusalem

V) The Last Week

Introduction: * We know only a little of the life of Jesus on earth - John 21:25 * We know almost nothing of the first 30 years of his life * We even know very little
of His 3+ year ministry * The greatest deal of attention by the gospel writers is on the last week and specifically the last few hours before His crucifixion!

**Triumphant Entry (Luke 19:29-40)**
- Fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9)
- No white stallion and “red carpet” welcome
- But one indicative of the the nature of this King
- Quite a spectacle to the possibly millions gathered in Jerusalem at this holiday season
- Goes into the temple - looks around and returns to Bethany
- This will be His practice for the next 4 or 5 days. Jerusalem in the day - Bethany at night

**Another Temple Cleansing (Mark 11:15-17)**
- There is such a thing as righteous indignation
- Meekness is not wimpishness
- No loss of control - He had visited the temple the day before and looked around
- Social gospel and use of religion for earthly gain condemned in principle
- Over the next few days intense efforts made to trap Him in His words
- He walks right into the temple daily, confronting them
- He openly condemns the hypocrisy of the Scribes, Pharisees - rebukes the Saducees
- Discusses the impending destruction of the temple one day when exiting the city (Mt. 24)

**VI) The Last 48 Hours (Mark 14:1-2)**

**Introduction:** The Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus in the city, but fear the uproar that might result in the daytime, and at night they cannot find him. They begin to try to figure out an underhanded way to do so.

**“The Last Straw” (Mark 14:3-9)**
- John says it was Mary who anointed Jesus and Judas was the main one concerned about the money.
- A years wages poured out!!
- Judas has been stealing from the bag
- He goes immediately and arranges to sell Jesus to His enemies
- 30 pieces of silver = about 15 dollars!
- He begins to seek an opportune time to tell the chief priests where and when they can conveniently arrest Jesus
- Wednesday there may not have presented him such an opportunity, but Thursday...
Arrangements For Passover Supper (Mark 14:12-15)
* Apostles ask where in Jerusalem to eat (Judas possibly listening in)
* Jesus gives these somewhat vague instructions
* What could Judas learn from them?
* Lessons From Judas
  1. Weaknesses were in all the apostles - the difference in how they were dealt with
  2. Among us there will be those with impure motives (must learn to accept that)
  3. Must not let hypocrites discourage us

Christ, Our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7)
* Thursday (best we can tell) - Luke 22:14
  * Jewish custom of going through the meanings of the various parts of the supper (eg. unleavened bread represented the haste with which the forefathers departed Egypt; the bitter herbs reminded them of the bitterness the fathers served Pharaoh in slavery, etc.)
  * Reclined at meat (KJV) - not probably as da Vinci Last Supper painting depicts, but rather leaning on elbow with feet away from the table.
  * Judas still there
  * The Passover soon to be fulfilled in the kingdom (Lk. 22:15-18)
  * After supper, He continues (19-20)
  * The bread to represent His body (no longer haste of deliverance from Egypt)
  * The fruit of the vine to memorialize His blood of the new covenant
  * Illustration: “Do you have a girlfriend?” Guy reaches into his wallet and removes a photograph and says “This is my girlfriend.”
  * A memorial instituted in advance, just like the original passover meal

Washing The Disciple’s Feet (John 13:1-5)
* During the supper, a notable occurrence takes place
* Notice first the things John impressed with as he records this incident many years later
  1. Jesus knew who He was - SON OF GOD!
  2. Jesus knew where He had come from and where He was going (aware of the glories He previously had with the Father before the worlds were created)
  3. Knew what He possessed - all things given into His hands
  4. Knew His time to depart had come
  5. And of course, He knew that the apostles have been bickering about who will be the greatest in the coming kingdom (Lk. 22:24)
  6. Knew Judas was already plotting to betray Him and is sitting right there!
  7. John could say, “He knew this all the time” and then amazingly He did this...
* Background of footwashing practice of that time - On the way to a place for a feast, on dusty roads, wearing sandals, made one’s feet dirty. A servant or child customarily would tend to it early, even while reclining at the table.
* But there is no servant or child here and the apostles are arguing over who will be greatest, none possibly wanting to compromise his aspirations or claims to position by accepting such a lowly task.
* So Jesus does it. Imagine that!
* Lessons:
  1. Not starting a ceremonial ritual
  2. Do what is needed to serve others no matter how lowly the task or how great you esteem yourself to be.
  3. When Jesus came to Peter, he refused. After Jesus insists, Peter wants all of him washed, but Jesus says only feet are dirty.
  4. Love is active - 13:1 Even Judas’ feet were washed
  5. Jesus did not humiliate Judas but identified him in a quiet way eg. one of the twelve, one who dips in dish with me. Others are asking, “Is it I?” When Judas departs, the others do not know where he is going.
  6. True greatness is in service rendered, not position appointment
  7. True submission is in allowing the Lord to do as He wills. Peter may have had good intention in refusing the Lord at first, but he was wrong.
* Would you want Jesus washing your feet? Your hands? Your head?
* He can! In His blood (Rev. 1:5)

The Garden Of Gethsemane
* John records a long conversation with the eleven that may have taken place in the upper room - John 13:31-14:31
* Then Jesus says, “Arise, let us go from here.”
* The discussion continues either as preparing to leave or on the way - John 15-16. He answers many of their concerns and promises the Holy Spirit.
* The Lord’s prayer - John 17
* They sing a hymn, probably one of the psalms. Can you picture Jesus singing?!
* It is around midnight. They make their way through the city to a gate in the walls, where they exit, immediately going down through a ravine that crosses a brook called Kidron, and then proceed up onto the mount of Olives.
* A garden that Jesus knows and has frequented before gives him some seclusion. Maybe fenced.
* Judas has gone to inform enemies where Jesus is.
* Matthew 26:36-46
* Leaves 8 near entrance and proceeds further with Peter, James and John
* Watch!
* He goes about a stone’s throw distance farther and falls down flat on the ground praying.
* Matthew says He was “grieved and distressed” - Mark says “deeply distressed and troubled” - Luke says He sweat was as great drops of blood
* “I am exceedingly sorrowful, even to death” This sorrow is life threatening.
* Not scared to die, but sorrowful to point of dying.
* Why so sorrowful?
1. Knew what was before Him - trials, abuse, crucifixion
2. Knew what His friend Judas was up to
3. Sorrow for what man ignorantly would be soon doing to the Son of God
4. Hatred for death - senseless, avoidable, devil’s fault, due to sin
5. Hatred of sin. He despised ALL sin - but now will bear the consequences of the guilt of all man’s sin in His body
6. Concern about the welfare of others - mother, apostles, countrymen
7. Maybe for a moment He will have to experience separation from the Father - He viewed spiritual death more sorrowfully than do we.

* Wept more for others than himself.
* How did He cope? Not with help of friends. They were asleep. But in prayer! He overcame temptation and agony in prayers.
* He prayed that this awful ordeal be removed, but more than anything He wanted the Father’s will.
* Was He heard? Yes! Answered? Yes. God’s will was done. (Hebrews 5:7-8)
* After the prayers we see a changed man. Serene, calm and in control.

**The Arrest (Matthew 26:47-56)**

* He can see the great throng of people coming - chief priests, soldiers (maybe Roman and temple guards) and Judas leading the way.
* The prearranged sign is for Judas to kiss the one who is Christ.
* Judas fulfills his agreement, but it is so unnecessary.
* Jesus approaches the group - Whom do you seek?
* Apparently they thought he would run or that they would have to search for Him
* They say, “Jesus of Nazareth” - He says, “I am He.”
* They fall back - maybe miraculous, but probably just afraid and stunned.
* A second time repeated and He requests that they let the others go. They run.
* Jesus is seized, but only as He has permitted it
* Peter makes a token gesture of defense - lops off the ear of Malchus, servant of the high priest. Jesus miraculous restores it. The king and kingdom will not be defended with earthly weaponry.
* They head back into the city.

**The Jewish Trial**

* Maybe around 3:00 a.m. - Go to high priest Annas (John 18:13) - Jews recognized him as appointed for life
* Next to Caiaphas (John 18:24) - Possibly around 4:00 a.m. - The Romans recognized him as H.P.
* These were both more like “hearings” with the official trial to take place in the morning with the Jewish supreme court or Sanhedrin
* Jewish Principles Of Law or Justice
  1. Impartial judge
  2. Innocent till proven guilty
3. No self-incrimination
4. 2 or more witnesses required
5. Court proceedings in the daytime
* All are violated!
    #1, #2 - John 11:47-53, 57
    #3 - John 18:12-14; 19-24
    #4 - Matthew 26:59-61 & Mark 14:57-59
    # 5 - John 13:30
* Caiaphas gets frustrated and places Jesus under oath, “I adjure you by the living God”
    “Are you the Christ, the Son of God?”
* Mark says that He said, “I AM”
* Caiaphas tears his clothes - another violation of law
* Accusation gathered by self-incrimination
* While waiting for daylight - around 5:00 a.m. - Luke 22:63-65
* 6:00 a.m.? Sanhedrin council convenes (70 leaders approx.) - Luke 22:66-23:1

Two Sub-Plots That Night
* John (?) and Peter have recovered themselves after running away and are following to see what happens
* John (?) maybe knew the High Priest and gains admittance for himself (John 18:15ff)
* Peter approaches gate to courtyard where John already entered
* Woman controls admittance
* John goes back to gain admittance for Peter?
* Woman asks, Are you one of His disciples? Peter replies, “No, I don’t know the man.”
* This is likely April and air is chilly, so various ones are standing around a fire in the courtyard. Peter joins the circle.
* Sometime later - You are one of His disciples - Peter with an oath denies it.
* Later - I am sure you are... (maybe “I saw you in the garden” or “Your Galilean speech gives you away”) - Peter pronounces a curse on himself if he is lying and swears that he does not know Jesus. The rooster crows. Probably from a window or door, Jesus turns and looks at Peter in the yard. The look said it all. Peter runs out and weeps bitterly.
* Two lessons:
    1. John maybe strong enough to endure the pressure, but Peter was not.
    2. Must be humble about future faithfulness.
* Judas has had second thoughts - remorse sets in - maybe has seen how unnecessary his part was - or he expected Jesus to not allow himself to be arrested
* Tries to return the money - throws it into the temple - goes out and hangs himself
* All three are guilty (Jewish leaders, Peter, Judas) Which was worse?
* One continued in sin - One wept and repented - One regretted but was overcome with grief
* The difference is in how you deal with sin
The Roman Trial (Mark 15:1-15)

* 7:00 a.m?
* Jesus very tired and weary (awake all night, sorrowful unto death, abused)
* Pontius Pilate (Roman governor)
* Jews not permitted to condemn someone to death
* 1st appearance - Maybe Jews hope Pilate will simply rubber stamp their decision and they will be on their way, but Pilate asks, “What are the accusations?” They reply, “If he was not an evildoer, we would not have brought him to you.” Pilate says, “You judge him then.” They respond that they cannot kill him”
* If you have to have charges - He perverts our nation, forbids paying taxes to Caesar, and makes himself a king.
* The last one seems to catch Pilate's attention
* Inside he asks “Are you a king of the Jews?” Jesus - “It is as you say.”
* Back outside - I find no fault in the man (Pilate will say this five times over the next few minutes!!)
* Justice says “release him” - Jesus is innocent!
* But Pilate is in a dilemma - He also wants to keep the Jews happy.
* He tries to avoid responsibility and sends Him to Herod (Lk 23:6-12)
* This is the man who had John the Baptist killed. He hopes to see a miracle. Jesus says absolutely nothing - Soldiers abuse Jesus.
* Pilate’s wife sends word that she has had a dream (Matthew 27:19)
* Pilate continues to talk to Jesus privately
* He hears claims of being the son of God and asks, “Where are you from?”
* Jesus is silent
* Pilate gets irritated and says “Don’t you know I have power to release you or crucify you?”
* Jesus says he has no power except given from above and that the Jews have the greater guilt in all this.

* Pilate seeks again to release him - Jews say “You are not Caesar’s friend if you do.”
* John 18:33-38
* Pilate seeks compromise - Has Jesus beaten - Does not work
* Looks for a loophole - customary to release one prisoner at passover - Picks Barabbas, heinous criminal - Surely they will prefer Jesus - Does not work
* Tries to blame others - washes hands - tries to soothe his conscience
* “Behold, the man!” - maybe arouse pity and sympathy - does not work
* Crucify him, crucify him!
* Lessons for us today:
  1. We must not let the pressure of the crowd persuade us
  2. Do not try to avoid responsibility for lives
  3. Never look for loopholes when truth at stake

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4. Never compromise the truth
5. Don’t shift the blame to others for our own decisions
6. Soothing our consciences does not change anything
7. Yes or No is sometimes the only course of action
8. Full denial of the Lord may take place one small step at a time

* Who was really on trial” Jesus? Pilate? Jews? Peter? Judas? Us?

VII) The Crucifixion

**Introduction:** 1. The cross of Jesus teaches two things: God’s love and God’s justice. 2. The most loving person - rejected and despised (Isaiah 53:3) 3. Jesus is extremely weary, no sleep all night, probably no food or drink, beaten with a whip...all this after being sorrowful to the point of death around midnight in the garden. 4. It is now around 8:00 a.m. as he begins to bear his cross through the city streets to a gate in the walls.

**Simon Of Cyrene**
* Coming INTO the city
* Compelled to carry the cross for Jesus
* Unpleasant physical task; maybe costing time and money
* Maybe defiled by contact with a Gentile cross and therefore the Passover celebration ruined
* The cross was a cursed thing
* Degrading and kept for despicable criminals
* Romans never crucified Romans
* What lessons are in Simon’s story for us today?

**Women Lamenting As He Walks Through the Streets**
* There is no record of any woman mistreating Jesus
* Women often have outdistanced men in Christlikeness
* What a loss to a society when the women are not glad to be women!

**Arrival At Calvary (Place of the Skull; Golgotha)**
* 9:00 a.m.
* 2 thieves also to be executed
* Offered intoxicating drink, wine mixed with myrrh (anesthesia) - He refuses - He will suffer in full consciousness
* Probably then laid on the beam and spikes are driven into hands and feet
* Then stood erect and dropped into a hole, maybe only a few inches off the ground
* No Biblical graphic description given
* Listen: “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”

**The Roman Soldiers**
* Divide His garments into four lots and “draw straws” to see which one each soldier got.
* A tunic (long undergarment) nice and without seam they cast lots to see who got it - fulfilling prophecy!
* Then they sat down and watched Him hanging there.

**The Title**
* Pilate has a title placed over cross (John 19:19-22)
* Maybe Pilate taunting those Jews or maybe clearing himself. If a king...now dead.

**Derision**
* “If you are the son of God, come down...”
* “He saved others, can’t save himself”
* Robbers join in
* Jesus remains silent

**Penitent Thief**
* One robber eventually has a change of heart and rebukes other robber.
* “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom”
* “Today, you shall be with me in paradise.”
* Observations about the thief:
  1. Acknowledged guilt
  2. Believes in Jesus
  3. Believes soul not dead after death
  4. Punishment and rewards are coming
  5. Kingdom is in the future
  6. He could share in that kingdom
  7. A penitent sinner could be accepted
  8. Jesus still has power
  9. Depends wholly on Jesus
  10. Seeks spiritual over physical salvation
* But was he baptized? Who knows!

**Noon to 3:00 p.m.**
* John’s constant presence (John 19:25-27, 35)
* Darkness for three hours
* Listen: “Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani” (“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”)
* “I thirst” - offered vinegar in a sponge on a reed and He drinks
* Six hours on the cross now
* Loss of blood, severe pain, burning sensations, intense thirst, shortness of breath, can feel every bone in your body
* “It is finished!” - a victory cry
* “Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit.”
* Bows head and spirit departs

From 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
* Temple curtain tears from top to bottom, signifying the way into the holiest place now open to all
* Earthquake, tombs opened, dead arise and go into the city after the resurrection
* Centurion confesses Jesus as Son of God after witnessing how He died and other things that transpired
* Women are looking on from afar
* Jews desire deaths expedited due to sabbath starting at sunset.
* Break legs of thieves, but Jesus already dead, so no bones broken, fulfilling prophecy
* Side pierced - water and blood - John emphasizes the facts as an eyewitness
* Joseph of Arimathea (a rich man) with Nicodemus ask for the body (John 19:38-42)
* Pilate amazed He is already dead - verifies it
* Buried in a new tomb - no mistake if body missing later
* Great boulder rolled in front
* Two Mary’s see where body laid and will wait until after sabbath
* Jewish leaders request guards posted - site sealed and guarded by probably four soldiers at a time around the clock.

VIII) The Resurrection

Introduction: About 6:00 a.m. (dawn) Sunday morning, the third day...
* Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James bring spices to the tomb for further embalming
* Earthquake - angel has rolled away the stone - soldiers faint
* When they arrive the body is gone!
* Mary Magdalene runs to tell Peter
* Luke 24:11-12
* Cloths neatly folded and arranged
* But where is Jesus?

1st Appearance
* Mary Magdalene nearby tomb after Peter and John depart
* Weeping she looks into the tomb - 2 angels sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet where He laid.
* John 20:13-17
* What is meant by “I have not yet ascended to my Father”?
* She tells others, but they do not believe her
* Other women see him and tell apostles, but they still do not believe

Sub-plot
* Jewish leaders bribe the soldiers to say the body was stolen while they slept. Ha! How would you know?
* The Empty Tomb Explanations:
  1. Stolen by disciples- How possible with guards? Also they are dejected.
  2. Enemies stole it - Why? And if so, why not present it at Pentecost to discredit apostles
  3. Not really dead - Pilate checked, remember beatings, bleeding from side, in tomb without aid, and pushes boulder aside???
  4. A ghost or spirit - handled him afterwards
  5. Hallucinating - Over 500 saw him at once
  6. Rose from the dead!

Sunday Afternoon
* Sunday p.m. He appears back in Jerusalem in room with 10 apostles
* They are locked in a room afraid of Jews but Jesus passes right through inside - they are terrified!
* He upbraids them for their earlier disbelief
* He lets them touch Him, wounds are evident, He eats fish with them
* 7 or 8 days later He appears again and Thomas the eleventh apostle there and believes after eyewitnessing

Later In Galilee
* Peter, James, John, Thomas and others are fishing one night
* Jesus standing on beach at daybreak
* “Have you anything to eat?” - No.
* “Cast your net on the right side of the boat” - catch 153 fish
* John says it is the Lord - Peter dives in and swims to shore
* Third appearance to apostles
* John 21:15-25
Conclusion: During the next few days He commissions the apostles to take the gospel to whole world and eventually returns to Jerusalem where He ascends up into the clouds from the Mount of Olives. He has only been seen in person once since then...Paul on the road to Damascus. But we await His promised return when every eye shall see Him.