

The celebration of Easter or Resurrection Sunday usually begins with Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Which is today. But the events of Passion Week cannot be understood without backing up to the event just a few months earlier in Bethany, just over the hill to the east of Jerusalem. The back story is the foundation of every amazing or devastating event.

That event in Jesus upcoming death was the raising of Lazarus from the dead at the behest of Martha and Mary. That personal favor, offered by Jesus to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus whom he loved, is reported in detail in John 11, right before his entry into Jerusalem in John 12. It is one of three events we will examine today which set the stage for Jesus' crucifixion on Friday the eve of Passover.

Without understanding the backstory, it is hard to imagine a reason why a large multitude of people would have followed Jesus into Jerusalem shouting Hosanna! Save us now! Only for the multitudes and religious leaders to cry crucify only a few days later.

But know this **JESUS ALWAYS IN CHARGE... Jesus literally controls the outcome of every situation.** He is God and he does not fight FAIR!! He knows everything, He is everywhere present, he cannot be outsmarted nor outstrategized, therefore He cannot fail, He has no weaknesses, His decisions are final and cannot be overruled, his power cannot be overcome, His plans cannot be thwarted. **He foresees every possible situation, obstacle, and overcomes them all**

- **He understands the enemy and every device he will use and when...and has already designed winning counters to them.**
- **His preparation and training of his people is individually and perfectly designed and implemented.... He promises victory and delivers every time**
- **He created everything; He controls the future, and adequately prepares the present for it. He has control over the outcome of everything to make sure it aligns with His Father's will...before any of it has ever happened**

- He is in control of the visible and the invisible...what is seen and what is unseen...the natural and the supernatural
- He is light and there is nothing dark in Him... His love is unending and His compassion and mercy new every morning... all Evil will be judged.

He knows the end from the beginning and what is needed at any time therein. Do not ever mistake ...bad times, hard times, trouble, or trials, disappointment, as an end... as an indication that Jesus is not in charge...he is always in charge...so as we study the back story today know Jesus is in charge...

We start the narrative a couple months before the last Passover feast Jesus will attend in Jerusalem when Jesus heard about Lazarus' illness, He waited two more days before starting out for Bethany – the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

JN 11:1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. ² This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. ³ So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." ⁴ But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." ⁵ So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶ he stayed where he was for the next two days.

- The Glory or advertising is going to cost him many will follow and many will reject...but love always cost...
- Last time in that area the religious leaders they tried to stone him

⁷ Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." ⁸ But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. ¹⁰ But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." ¹¹ Then he

said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.”

- We are always willing to help Jesus out when we believe he is making a bad move. Jesus replies ...it is the time to do this...daylight...I am in charge it will work out..
- Jumping ahead to when he arrives at the graveyard four days later.....

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. ²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” ²⁸ Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.” ²⁹ So Mary immediately went to him.

³⁰ Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. ³¹ When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there. ³² When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked them. They told him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Then

Jesus wept. ³⁶ The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!”

- **Jesus wept because death of loved one is painful..and he knew this would seal his death warrant...it would be the cause of his own death...**

³⁷ But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”³⁸ Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

⁴⁵ Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.⁴⁶ But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸ If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

*⁴⁹ Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, “You don’t know what you’re talking about! ⁵⁰ You don’t realize that it’s better for you that one man **should die for the people** than for the whole nation to be destroyed.” ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. ⁵² And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.*

⁵³ So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus’ death.

Caiaphas... A Roman appointee.. placed him there to keep tabs and keep peace. His loyalty definitely divided between the Jews and the Roman occupiers. But he was the one with power...served 18 years

- **Annas was actually the heir to that role in the line of Aaron,**
- **The religious and political shot callers sanctioned the hit...it was on**
- **Raising a man from the dead became the final straw...in the minds of the religious elite...why? Everyone will follow him...and we will lose our place...what did Jesus say...the greatest among you is the servant of all...**
- **we jump ahead a number of months...the miracle of Lazarus has spread like wild fire...Belief in Jesus at an all time high in Jerusalem...yet he has become a wanted fugitive by the religious leaders...all according to plan..**

JN 11: 55 It was now almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several days early so they could go through the purification ceremony before Passover began. 56 They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, "What do you think? He won't come for Passover, will he?" 57 Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

- **As a Rabbi would he come to the Passover feast in Jerusalem?...so they watched for him and had their snitches on the look out also...**
- **They plotted to arrest Jesus: But ...Jesus always in control. the Passover lamb must die on the Passover..**
- **but he must first be announced as King...the one and only day he allowed and set up this declaration!**

Jesus Then goes to Bethany a days walk from Jerusalem.. And again Lazarus plays a role...this incident causes Lazarus to be greenlighted also...Saturday evening

JN 12: 1 Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. 2 A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among

those who ate with him. ³ Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar^[b] of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. ⁷ Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. **She did this in preparation for my burial.**"

- **Bethany within a Sabbath days walk of Jerusalem a popular town for travelers**
- **And seemed to be Jesus favorite place to stay in Jerusalem.**
- **The woman is identified as Mary sister of Martha and Lazarus**
- **Perfume possibly Myrrh Gold –Deity Frankincense-Priesthood Myrrh –Suffering and death**

Matthew tells us that night Jesus says her deed will be honored forever...and Judas decides to betray Jesus...we pick up the same incident...

MT 26: 12 She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. ¹³ I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed." ¹⁴ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests ¹⁵ and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

What a contrast Mary anoints Jesus, Judas Betrays Jesus... It is a beautiful thing she did for Him. What was the beauty??... The end was in sight and she knew it. When you're close to the lord's heart ...Your in tune with the pulse of his movements.

- **She Worshipped Him with the best she had. She loved him. She did not forget her first love. Willing to spend a year's wages at one time to demonstrate it. She believed Jesus was worth a lot. Looks**

like an excellent investment To be remembered wherever the Gospel Is preached.

- **Conversely This last event turned Judas Heart completely hard. Why this Waste...Interestingly when Jesus called Judas son of Perdition in John 17:12 KJV it literally means “son of Waste”**
- **He had every opportunity to receive Jesus as Lord but he wasted Them. Judas Iscariot means Ish (man) carioth (city in Judea) only one of twelve from Judea. All the rest from Galilee.**
- **John tells us this meal also put the green light on Lazarus he is a walking dead man also This event has been deliberately pre-arranged by Jesus ...**

John 12:9 When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

- **The raising of Lazarus created so much publicity for Jesus and was such an amazing miracle and testimony of his power and word...that the chief priest decided Lazarus must go also...**
- **Why? People were putting their faith in Jesus...the Religious leaders were losing their people...which means they would lose their Jobs...their power prestige and position...**
- **All his life, Jesus had walked everywhere. But now he deliberately decided to cover this short distance on an unbroken donkey, one he would not ride again**

John 12:12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³ took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵ “Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt.”

- **This was the messianic sign at once perceived by the crowds who hailed Jesus as their king shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Until now Jesus did not allow the people to publicly announce Him as The Messiah.**
- **The riding on the back of a donkey prophesied 500 years earlier...by Zechariah..** The prophet Zechariah wrote:
ZEC 9: 9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.
 - **He rides a colt ...not broken in, never ridden before...he can control what no human can.... The Lord is in control of what appears uncontrollable**
 - **By so doing, he would be publicly declaring that he was the Messiah. on Sunday, Jesus and the disciples joined other pilgrims to go the remaining two miles to Jerusalem.**
 - **Remember Jesus did not allow the people to publicly announce Him as The Messiah. until today....**

John 12:16 His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷ Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. ¹⁸ That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ¹⁹ Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

MT 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" ^{MT 21:11} The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

- **after entering the East Gate...Jesus apparently tours the city... then goes to the temple**

MK 11:11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

- *So Why did Jesus look around at the Temple?* **Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the donkey and surveys what he had disrupted 3 years previous and observes what is going on that day...**

john3: 13 It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. ¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."^[c]¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."¹⁹ "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

- **Fast forward three years Jesus comes back the next day...Monday...and tore up the place again**

MK 11:15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written:

" 'My house will be called a house of **prayer for all nations**' ? But you have made it **'a den of robbers.'** "

- **The court of the Gentiles This is the only place they can gather to pray and meditate and study about God...and it was made into a huge market place... is where this money market took place...it was an affront to Jesus...**
- **This area became primarily a bazaar, with vendors selling souvenirs, sacrificial animals, food, as well as currency changers, exchanging Roman for Jewish money**

after this... Matthew gives us this detail...

*MT 26:3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴ and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. ⁵ "**But not during the Feast,**" they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."*

- **They plotted to kill Jesus: after but not during the Feast...Jesus always in control. the Passover lamb must die on the Passover....the King has come...now it is time for his sacrifice...**

Jesus is always in control...rest in it