

EVENTS SURROUNDING EASTER

“JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM” Mark 11:1-11

Jesus and his disciples were about to enter Jerusalem when Jesus told them to go into the village and bring him the donkey that is tied up and has never been ridden. He told them that if anyone questions them to tell them that the Lord has need of it. The disciples did as Jesus told them and brought him the donkey. They put their coats on it and Jesus sat on it to ride. Then a great crowd of people laid their coats down on the road. Others spread palm leaves before him. The crowds went before him shouting, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God in the highest!” The some of the Pharisees who were with the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher correct your disciples! Tell them to be silent!” Jesus replied, “Truly I say to you, if these people were silent, then the very stones themselves would cry out.”

Metaphysical Interpretation

“Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem may be seen as a symbol of the journey we also must undertake as we advance from sense consciousness to spiritual consciousness. He did 3 things: First, he **set a purpose**. ‘He steadfast set his face to go to Jerusalem’ no matter what his disciples said.” This applies to all of us. Once we have set upon our spiritual journey there can be no turning back. Second, **On the way He took a symbolic action**. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding an untrained donkey. The donkey represents our animal nature and Jesus riding it shows us that “if we are to undertake our spiritual journey one of our early activities must be to bring our physical powers under control. We must say in regard to our entire being - spirit, body and soul - Christ is in control.” The third thing he did was to **arrive where he wanted to be, but there appeared to be a setback**. Even though the crowds hailed him as he entered he was not recognized as the Messiah. This appeared to be a setback but in reality it was an opportunity for a new beginning. In our spiritual development we should always regard seeming setbacks as points of new beginnings. What may appear to be failure is, in reality, only a breathing space, where we may gather fresh energy and enthusiasm to press forward to higher attainments.” *A Study of the New Testament By Dr. Herbert Hunt, Association of Unity Churches*

“THE WASHING OF THE FEET & THE LAST SUPPER” John 13:1-17 Luke 22:7-38

Jesus and the Disciples arrived at the house in Jerusalem and went into the upper room. Jesus took off his outer robe and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured water into a bowl and then knelt in front of each of the 12 Disciples, washing and drying their feet. But when it was Peter’s turn, he objected, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head.” Jesus said, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him. Jesus then said, “Now that I, your Lord, have washed your feet, you should wash one another’s feet.

On the first day of Passover and the Disciples went to the upper room to prepare the feast. Jesus joined them in the evening. He said, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup of wine and said, “Take the cup and divide it among yourselves.” Then he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, “This is my body, which is given up for you, do this in remembrance of me.” After supper he took the cup and said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” Jesus then told them that the one that would betray him was with

them at the table right now. Jesus also went on to tell Peter that Peter would deny him three times before the cock would crow.

Metaphysical Interpretation

The Washing of the Feet - Jesus set an example, that we may learn that we are all equal, that the master is no greater than his servant and that you should behave humbly and kindly toward one another. "This story also shows us the importance of cleansing the understanding, since the feet represent understanding. Jesus placed a new dignity on all forms of service." *A Study of the New Testament* By Dr. Herbert Hunt, Association of Unity Churches

The Last Supper - "This represents God's covenant with mankind, through His perfect idea, Christ Jesus. This covenant was completed through Jesus' breaking the bread and blessing the cup. The bread symbolizes spiritual substance or the body. The wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus or spiritual life. We eat the body of Jesus by affirming the one spiritual substance to be the substance of our body and we drink His blood by affirming and realizing our oneness with the one divine, omnipresent life of spirit." *Revealing Word* Also see *Keep a True Lent* pg. 192-3., *Unity School for Religious Studies*

"JESUS IS ARRESTED, SENTENCED AND CRUCIFIED" Matt 26-27, Mark 14:43, 15, Luke 22:47, 23, John 18-19

Jesus and his disciples went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. A great anguish came over Jesus and he said, "Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." While he was praying the disciples fell asleep three times. He was angry with them and said, "Could you not stay awake for one hour with me? Rise now, for those who plan to arrest me are near." Just then Judas arrived with a large crowd. He whispered to them, "The one I kiss is the man." Judas went to Jesus and kissed him, the armed crowd seized Jesus and all the disciples fled, abandoning him. Jesus was brought before the high priest who asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "It is you who say so." All declared that this answer was blasphemy and deserved death. At dawn Jesus was taken before Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate questioned Jesus but Jesus made no answer. Pilate could see that Jesus had done no wrong and wished to free him. But the crowd shouted, "Put him to death." He sentenced Jesus to death by crucifixion. The soldiers took Jesus, lashed him with a whip and spit in his face. They made fun of him by dressing him in a red cape and a crown of thorns. Then they took him away to Mount Golgotha and nailed him to a cross. People passing by laughed at him and said that if he really was the Messiah that he should free himself. Toward noon a great darkness fell on the earth. At three o'clock Jesus said, "Father, my spirit is in your hands." And he breathed his last breath. That evening two friends of Jesus took his body down and wrapped it in a shroud. They placed it in a tomb and rolled a stone across the entrance.

Metaphysical Interpretation

"Being in the Garden represents the "last-ditch" resurgence of the human nature factors in Jesus. The statements he made illustrate the son of man aspect in him. They help us understand the fears of human personality or ego in our own 'crucifixion experiences.' Yet the full transformation of consciousness cannot take place until our human will totally surrenders and can say, 'thy will be done.'" (*A Study of the New Testament* by Dr. Herbert Hunt) The betrayal, arrest and trial had been clearly outlined by Jesus long before they happened. While Jesus was being questioned, Peter denied him three times. "This shows us that while spiritual faith is being developed in consciousness it is often changeable and wavering. The religious trial of Jesus shows how a merely formal religion will persecute and attempt to kill the inner Christ spirit and all that pertains to it. When Judas realized what he had done in betraying Jesus he killed himself. This death signifies the dissolution of the unredeemed life forces that betray us and makes way for the lifting up of the forces that will aid us in laying hold of spiritual life. Pilate's decision to crucify Jesus represents a man who is controlled by human consciousness. Pilate was not emotionally involved with Jesus but the Sadducees and

Pharisees were. They allowed their emotions to rule them so they became spiritually blind. This shows us that we must have an attitude of compassion toward those who “crucify” us. The main point here is that we love God and our fellow man, but in order to do this a certain degree of spiritual understanding and development is necessary. We attain this by releasing all criticism and prejudice and by striving to manifest the Christ virtues of forgiveness, tolerance and love. The Crucifixion represents the crossing out of all that belongs to the mortal consciousness in order that the way be made for the coming forth of the Christ self. Jesus’ last seven words or sayings symbolize the steps that should be taken in the final overcoming of the mortal mind. Details on this can be found in *Your Hope of Glory* pg.254 and *New Testament Interpretation* pg. 68. *Unity School of Religious Studies*

“THE RESURRECTION - JESUS APPEARS TO MARY & THE APOSTLES” Matt 28, Mark 16, Luke 24:1-49, John 20

The next day the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and ask that the tomb be guarded for three days so that the disciples could not remove Jesus’ body and claim that he had arisen. So they went to the tomb, sealed it and posted a guard there. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb the next day and found that the stone had been rolled away. They did not know who could have done this. Mary Magdalene ran to tell Peter and John that Jesus was gone. They ran to the tomb. John reached it first and looked in and saw the linen wrappings but he did not go in. When Peter reached the tomb he went in and saw the lined wrappings, John then joined him and they believed. The disciples returned to their homes. Mary Magdalene weeping, peered into the tomb and saw two angels dressed in white. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She replied that they had taken the body of Jesus and she did not know where they had put him. As she turned around she saw Jesus standing behind her but she did not know it was him. He said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” She still did not recognize Jesus. Then he called her by name and She knew he was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “So not hold onto me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them that I have ascended to my Father and your Father to my God and your God.” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples and told them all she had seen.

Metaphysical Interpretation

“Jesus was in the tomb for three days, these represent the three movements of mind that are involved in overcoming error. First, nonresistance and humility; second, the taking on of the divine activity, or receiving the will of God; third, the assimilation and fulfillment of the divine will.” (*Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*) When Mary went to the tomb expecting to find a dead body she was surprised to see two angels who help to guide her attention in a different direction. The angels represent thoughts of divine guidance. When Mary turns her attention out of the tomb and into the garden, she encounters the resurrected presence of Jesus. So it is with us, when we are directing the attention of our emotional nature (Mary Magdalene) toward negative thoughts and beliefs (tomb) the best we can hope to find is a “corpse” (memories of what used to be). But when we turn the attention of our emotional nature to the “garden” (realm of living ideas) we can find our newly revived spiritual awareness (resurrected Jesus). When Jesus says to Mary, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended...” he is illustrating the need to avoid negative emotional attachments at times in life where further spiritual unfoldment is the most important thing. *New Testament Interpretation* *Unity School of Religious Studies*