

JOSES

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INTRODUCTION (36. JOSES: THE TEARFUL ENTRY)

Every once in awhile a DECISION has to be made which affects the whole course of history:

- Adam & Eve eating forbidden fruit
- Moses' decision to leave Egypt for Israel
- Columbus' decision to search for a new world

2,000 yrs ago nation Israel found self at such a turning- point decision
-biggest turning point in history since Eden
-so important recorded in all 4 gospels (very rare!)
(birth of Jesus only in 2)

My name is **JOSES**

I'm from Alexandria, Egypt

I was able to come to Jerusalem for Passover

April 3, 33 AD (Friday) that year

Came early to do business

see relatives haven't seen lately

make some business contacts with others who came

and, quite frankly, very curious about Jesus

if what others said were true = Messiah!

I was always interested in religious matters

always looking for spiritual reality

believed in Judaism with all my heart,

but something missing

empty spot in my soul not filled

hole in my heart outer Judaism didn't meet

JESUS met that need completely!!!

I picked the right time to come to Jerusalem

-the best of times & the worst of times!

I'd like to tell you what happened during those few days:

SPRING 33 (TRAVEL)

JESUS' ARREST PLANNED

I guess you know how Jesus' been preaching for 3+ years
some believed, followed Him

majority, esp rel rulers, rejected Him

worse yet, wanted to have Him killed

-jealous of popularity

-said critical things of them (pride)

-didn't want to hear @ submit to God

Time for Passover grew nearer and people arrived

Jeru from 100,000 to 1 million!

-Jews living outside the land who return

Everyone wondering if Jesus would come

-all males required to come, Jesus always did

-orders out that if anyone saw Jesus must report it

He'd be arrested

I had heard He was in the vicinity - BETHANY

talk @ bringing someone back to life!

Then had left the area

REALLY had everyone talking!

NOT that many believed or open (like me)

BUT people bored, looking for excitement

find something to talk about, distract from dullness

TRANSITION

Jesus was certainly the distraction this Passover!

FRIDAY, MAR. 27

ARRIVAL IN BETHANY

Word filtered around among those who believed that He had arrived back in Bethany

I was part of that group

SATURDAY, MAR. 28

MARY ANOINTS JESUS

Saturday evening word spread @ Jesus in Bethany

It seems Lazarus (you know him?)

gave a special dinner for Jesus

When done Mary entered room with men

poured a fortune's worth of perfume on Jesus' feet

washed and wiped them with her hair

strange - like getting His body ready for burial

but, you know, never can tell what woman do!

Why get Him ready for burial ???

JUDAS spoke up first

complaining about the waste of money

soon had other disciples agreeing with him

-very persuasive, very personable

leader because excellent person

said \$ should have been given to him (treasurer)

to give to the poor

JESUS actually defended her!

Said she was doing the right thing anointing for burial

Talk about strange - no one seemed to understand it

It gave us something to talk about

Confirmed that Jesus was nearby
but would He dare enter Jerusalem?
That was the biggest topic of debate!

SUNDAY, MAR. 29

PLOT TO KILL LAZARUS

Sunday I joined a steady stream of Jews walking to Bethany
couldn't travel that far on Sabbath
We met Lazarus and talked to him
what a testimony! Dead 3 days and alive again!

I then named myself among Jesus followers
unless something drastic happened to change my mind
I believed He = Messiah/God

Many other believed because of Lazarus, too

When we got back to Jerusalem heard from servant of high priest that
they were planning to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus -- to many people
turning to Jesus!

MONDAY, MAR. 30

CROWDS in Jerusalem wondering:

“Will Jesus of Nazareth come here to Passover?”
+always has, wrong to pass up opportunity
-rel rulers say will kill Him & followers
(last time in town tried to stone him)

PEOPLE:

-curious, look for entertainment, action
-seeking, want to know more
-saved, want to learn/worship

as it turned out in God's timing it was FINAL EXAM TIME

for 3+ years Jesus teaching, preaching, now test!
INDIVIDUALS all made up mind @ Him + -
NATION as a whole now must decide
Jesus force them to decide, commit
how force them to commit + - ?
full-life audio visual display

PREP. FOR TEARFUL ENTRY

You won't believe what happened next!

Here, let me read it to you

written by MATTHEW, who was there, too

Matt 21:1-7 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

LOCATION: started from Bethany, far side of Mt of Olives

JOHN & PETER get unrid donkey, ride it into town

DONKEY: Why not walk into town as done dozens of times?

Fulfill prophecy = Messiah!

Donkey: peace, meek, gentle

Horse: warfare, assertive

Jesus = Prince of Peace

could have asked for span of beautiful horses, chariot

or have angels carry Him into town

Unridden donkey: how new king entered Jerusalem

prophesied of Messiah!

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION Jesus = Messiah

before: "Don't tell anyone"

now: the time has come!

Revealing Himself as KING

Ps 24:7-10 Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory. Selah

SALESMAN presents product, critical moment is when challenge person to buy or not, force to decide & commit self

Jesus doing that!

JESUS KNEW THE ANSWER

Daniel 9:24-27 foretold to the day

fulfilled to the day - "Messiah cut off"

RIDING THE COLT

donkeys, even unriden ones, gentle & easy to ride
sat astride (not side saddle like feminine pictures)

Jesus very masculine:

carpenter (house builder)

walked everywhere

slept on ground most nights

Jesus riding to victory - our victory (His death)

people follow, praising & acclaiming Jesus KING

Peter out in front, day he's been waiting for!

TEARFUL ENTRY

MARK was there, too

He describes what happened in his gospel:

Mark 11:7-10 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM

thinking, talking, wondering if Jesus is coming
word gets to Jeru He's coming with Lazarus
large group rush out to meet Him on the way
courageous move, knowing rel rulers opposed
thoughts of 1st Passover, deliverance from E - now think of
del from Rome
both groups meet on far side of Mt of Olives

WORSHIP OF THE KING:

1. BY COATS: disc put some on donkey for saddle
custom: costly rugs put out before feet of kings (coats
children pick them up after donkey passes, run to front, put down
again
2. BY BRANCHES: waved leaves & branches cut from field
3. BY PALMS: cut off nearby trees to wave
associated with Messiah coming to lead people
(on a donkey, from Mt of Olives, palm branch)
palm = symbol of victory
people want victory over Rome
(just like wanted free food earlier)
Jesus doing just that - sin is enemy (not Rome)
recognize Jesus as **KING**

4. BY VOICES - all praising in loud voices
disciples emotionally HIGH (soon will be depressed)
“HOSANNA” = “save us now”
“HALLELUJAH” = “Praise the Lord”
quote Psalm 118:25-26 - sung about Messiah
PASSOVER: 1st coming (cross)
TABERNACLES: 2nd coming (crown)

Jesus presenting self at Passover to be lamb slain for sin
People forget its Passover, act like Tabernacles
want Messiah to rule, defeat Rome
error: missed 1st coming

JOHN was right there with Jesus the whole time
this is the way he described it:

MAJORITY in group patriotic, excitable Jews
-or wouldn't have impulsively come out of Jeru
MINORITY true believers, but wrongly influenced by maj
DISCIPLES caught up in it all
MARY perhaps only one who knew it was different
JUDAS - what was he thinking?
Overlook hatred of Jesus to have power?
Regretting deal with rel rulers to turn Jesus in?

Naturally something like this wouldn't happen without rel rulers knowing
and being involved - they were right there, too

MARY was near where they were and heard it all
she later told Luke, who wrote it down

RELIGIOUS RULERS came out as group, following others
now catch up to main body just on other side of hill
couldn't arrest Jesus in that crowd of supporters!
KNEW He was proclaiming self Messiah
spiritually blind - miss real significance
MILDER group - wait-and-see policy
RADICAL group - delay no good, attack ASAP

“Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”

Tell them they're wrong

Say this Messiah thing is a mistake

JESUS: “I tell you, if these become quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Agreed with what was happening

Personally planned this mass demonstration

Knows this public display will force rel rul to act

Voluntarily coming to town to turn self in

for sins of the world

JESUS CRIES:

as head over top of Mt of Olives and see Jerusalem

CRIED loud, long, uncontrolled sobbing

Jews wanted peace, but rejected Prince of Peace

only war & destruction coming to Jerusalem

Jesus looking ahead to AD 70

NOW Jeru looked beautiful, peaceful

SOON destroyed -- Jesus saw that

Crying for Jews/Jerusalem, not for self!

(Cry about that later in Gethsemaene)

PEOPLE high, shouting @ Messiah & kingdom, excited

JESUS should have been happiest day, but crying out loud!

Not TRIUMPHAL entry

But TEARFUL entry

anointed for burial by Mary

going to death in Jerusalem

quenched enthusiasm of followers

showed He wasn't going to be the Messiah-King

confused them about why He was on donkey

many slipped away from group so not caught

Jesus continued into temple, forcing final decision

TRANSITION

Just like that it was over!

It seemed it had hardly started and it was over!

And what a strange ending!

It was like there was some unspoken agreement among everyone to act like nothing happened!

Just go back to business as usual & forget whole thing
Pretend like Someone didn't just proclaim Himself Messiah
after 3 years of teaching and miracles!!!!

PUZZLEMENT AFTER ENTRY

LARGE CROWD in temple when heard Jesus coming
curious, interested, nosy

NOT accept Him as Messiah-King

“Who is this?” - who does He think He is?

“This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” - man,
not **Messiah-King**

VOTE:

People entering town with Jesus: snuck off - NO

People waiting in temple “Who?” - NO

Religious rulers - NO

REJECTED: very day Daniel said He'd be rejected

Mar 30, 33 AD

HEALING & PRAISE

(at this very time, a few feet away, priests selecting & setting apart
Passover Lamb doomed to die for nation at 3 PM, Friday, Apr. 3, AD 33
- same moment Jesus died)

LAMB SELECTION DAY!

JESUS NOT SURPRISED: knew this coming
continued to heal, teach, etc -

NATION voted NO, too late for nation Israel
INDIVIDUALS could still vote YES for own souls

BACK TO BETHANY

JESUS LEAVES at end of day

like SHEKINAH glory leaving temple same way/reason
back to Bethany, retrace steps over tearful entry
palm branches, etc., lying in moonlight

Nobody said much -- what was there to say?

Were we wrong about Him being the Messiah?

Certainly HE thought He was

But it didn't look like the nation was buying that
in fact it didn't look good for Him,
what with a price tag on His head and all ..

Maybe that lady who started getting Him ready for burial wasn't as far
off as we first thought!

TRANSITION

Oh, well -- tomorrow was another day
we'd see what developed then ...
would He leave the area or return?

TUESDAY, MAR. 31

TEMPLE CLEANSED

Day got even stranger!

I was hanging around the temple - only place in town to go!
News, teaching, business, etc all there

All of us from out of town went there, see what could buy
like having a shopping mall in church balcony!

Heard this big commotion and we went to see
someone chasing all money-changers out!
-Illegal, cheats, no one liked them, stuck with them
-this was their busiest time of the year!
turns out it was JESUS doing it!
Someone told me He had done this before, too!

He was definitely not becoming any more popular!
Certainly no way to make friends & influence people!

CRUCIFIXION FORETOLD

It was as if this brought up some strong emotions in Him
We could tell He was upset!
If BEFORE was turning point for nation
Then THIS was a turning point for Him!

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

You'll never believe what happened next!
A voice from heaven said:
"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

Then Jesus said He was going to be "lifted up"
which everyone knew meant CRUCIFIED
But we knew that that couldn't possibly happen!

CALL TO WALK IN THE LIGHT

FOLLOW JESUS - had been saying this all along!

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

TRANSITION

It really gave us something to think about!

I wanted to follow Him

But so many strange things were happening

-claiming to be Messiah, then dropping it

-crying over the city

-cursing a fig tree

-picking this time to clean out the temple!

-telling everyone He's to be crucified

but He still wants us to follow Him!

OUT OF JERUSALEM

Anyway, at the end of the day He went back to Bethany
we were more confused than ever!

WEDNESDAY, APR. 1

This turned out to be a very big, active day!

MORNING

JESUS vs THE RELIGIOUS RULERS

We saw Jesus and disciples enter temple

start preaching & teaching

before got far interrupted by rel rulers

out in force, like they had a plan

They challenged His authority to teach Jews

Said it came from God

He challenged them to repent

told parables showing their need to repent

judgment if they didn't

What a conversation!

REL RULERS attacked Him
HE parried their thrusts, disarmed them
HE went on offensive, tore them to threads!

Took most of the morning, just went on and on and on!

WIDOW'S TWO MITES

Everyone drained, scattered - hungry, chores to do, etc
From there Jesus slipped into Court of the Women

I followed along, too enthralled in all to leave
stood there watching people come & go
some gave tithes & offerings - showy way
one poor woman gave 1/2 penny (lowest allowed)

Jesus pointed her out, impressed

NOT by what she gave - everything
BUT by what she kept - nothing!

Motive of love behind it

really refreshing to Jesus after morning's activities
good to see some NOT hypocrites!

OLIVET DISCOURSE

Then Jesus left the temple, went toward MT OF OLIVES
Jesus pointed at Herod's massive stones (tons, 20' long)

"Not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down."

Proceeded to MT OF OLIVES, sat in cool Gethsemane
-where rich had gardens to escape heat of city
-friend had given us his key to use when needed

Disciples had been wondering about words @ stones overthrown -
that would mean end of nation Israel!

Finally got up courage to ask Him WHEN it would be
and HOW THEY WOULD KNOW when it would be

Now usually Jesus just gave short answers
all we could grasp and remember anyway

This time went into very long dissertation, almost an hour
-SIGNS of what would be going on when He returned
-IMPORTANCE of being ready!

Seems each person in future would have to
make own decision, too @ follow Jesus or not
you should read it some time

MATTHEW summarized it all in chapters 24-25

TRANSITION

what a morning! - day only half over!

What more would happen that day?

AFTERNOON

TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE

Back to the temple to teach & preach

this time rel rulers left Him alone

nothing they could do

- always lost ground when challenged Him

PASSOVER NEAR, CRUCIFICATION PREDICTED

Told us again He was going to be crucified at the Passover

but that couldn't be - that was just 2 days away

and besides only Romans crucified (Jews stoned)

why would Romans want to crucify Him?

It just didn't make any sense...

RULERS PLAN JESUS' ARREST

Rumors spread that rel rulers not present because meeting

All agreed Jesus must be put out of circulation

What He said was too damaging to their power
but would have to wait until after Passover
easier to do when just locals around
locals under their thumb much better!

JUDAS OFFERS TO BETRAY JESUS

When I put all the pieces together afterwards
I realized it must have been right about this time that Judas
made His offer to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver

WHY? No one still knows for sure

-perhaps Jesus' taking Mary's side after anointing Him
embarrassed him, hit his pride

-then, too, all this talk about Jesus dying and no kingdom hard to
take if you gave up

everything to follow Jesus

-now nothing to show for it

-30 pieces of silver was something (ironically the price of
a slave)

But that changed everything

because not Judas was calling the shots

HE'D be the one to pick the best time to do it!

TRANSITION

That night I didn't sleep very well

this was more than I had bargained for!

I just wanted a simple, strong Messiah

things were definitely too confusing

It must have been even harder on Jesus, though

I heard He was staying in Gethsemane these nights

not going back to Bethany any more

-Did He want to spare His friends from retribution?

-Did He want to be closer to Jerusalem, shorter trip?

-Did He need privacy, time alone to pray & think?

THURSDAY, APR. 2

MORNING

MOST DISBELIEVE IN JESUS

Just by walking around town and the temple Thursday it was obvious public opinion was not for Jesus
they liked what He said/did to rel rulers
but demanded too much of them -give up everything to put Him first!

Military Messiah to drive out Rome = accepted in a minute
Suffering Servant (Isaiah) = didn't fit into their plans
still, we remembered other prophecies from Isaiah
@ how Messiah would be rejected by the people

TYPICAL PREACHING OF JESUS

Still Jesus preached & taught, calling for commitment
maybe one or two undecided or swaying
probably many like me, wanted to believe but not easy!

AFTERNOON

PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

Things settled down all over town - Passover near
THAT was why we were there
took precedent over all gossip & intrigue!
HIGHLIGHT of the year (NY, Christmas, Thanks, etc)

US FROM GALILEE - Passover that night
REST OF THE PEOPLE - Passover tomorrow night
Disciples got ready to have Passover with Jesus that night

I went to my relatives, where staying, start cleaning prep.
I'd have to check in a day or two to see what happened
Probably nothing, I didn't think I'd miss anything
Everyone, even rel rulers, busy with Passover
'Truce' to all this, pick it up later
A shame, I'd have to leave in a couple days
Might not ever find out how it turned out!

I put it out of my mind as I rejoined my relatives
**still, all that about Him claiming to be Messiah KING
couldn't stop thinking about that**

CONCLUSION (just read verses in closing, then pray) **king to me,
king to you, too???**

Matt 2:2 The Magi asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Matt 21:5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

John 12:13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Matt 27:11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

Matt 27:29 They twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

1 Tim 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Zech 14:9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Rev 15:3 They sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Rev 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.