

The Easter Story

By Tiffany James

The Easter Story...No story can be more agonizing, yet it is the sweetest story of all. It is the story of my redemption. It is the story of the Servant-King, the God-Man, Who loved me first and made His soul an offering for my wretched sin. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Easter is absolutely my favorite holiday. The beautiful outdoor weather, cheery birds, and fresh flowers all make it a time of refreshment and sweet joy. But what is most special to me about Easter is the story of my beloved Savior. I love to spend the week reflecting on His passion week, reading the story and pondering the events that surrounded His great sacrifice.

On Thursday, I think about the Last Supper and the pain and rejection Christ faced as His own disciples abandoned Him in His most trying hour.

On Good Friday, I remember His cruel death and thank Him that while I was yet a sinner, He died for me. Salvation is a free gift, certainly. But it was not free to Christ; He paid an enormous price for our sins. Singing hymns about His atoning death fills my heart with sober, overwhelming gratitude.

On Saturday, I think about the disciples...the pain, the grief, the loss they felt.

And on Sunday, I awake with joy and victory, praising the Lord for conquering sin and the grave. Because He lives, we shall live also (John 14:19)! I sing triumphant hymns about His glorious resurrection and His eternal reign as King of all the earth.

I wanted to encourage each of you to really meditate on Christ in a special way this Easter. Let His great love and sacrifice fill your mind the entire Passion Week. You will worship Him in a beautiful way as you behold the precious Lamb of God.

"The agony, yet the dignity! He died in strength and power of His own will, not defeated by His enemies' wicked desires!! Let us consider Him, and rest in His goodness."~Sarah B.

Suggested Scripture Reading for the Passion Week:

<i>Day before Palm Sunday:</i>	<i>Monday:</i>	<i>Good Friday:</i>	* Acts 10:34-43
* John 12:1-2	* Mark 11:12-19	* Matthew 27:1-61	* Acts 2:22-36
* Matthew 26:6-13	<i>Tuesday:</i>	* Mark 15:1-47	<i>Resurrection Sunday:</i>
* Mark 14:3-9	* Mark 11:20-26	* Luke 22:63-23:56	* Matthew 28:1-20
<i>Palm Sunday:</i>	<i>Thursday:</i>	* John 18:28-19:42	* Mark 16:1-20
* Luke 19:28-40	* Matthew 26:17-25	* Isaiah 53	* Luke 24:1-53
* Matthew 21:1-11	* Mark 14:12-72	* Psalm 22	* John 20-21
* Mark 11:1-11	* Luke 22:7-62	<i>Saturday:</i>	* 1 John 2:25
* John 12:12-19	* John 13:1-18:27	* Matthew 27:62-66	* 1 Corinthians 15
	* Psalm 41	* Luke 23:56	