

April 6, 2020

A Week of Love – Part 3

Mark 11:1, “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives.”

On the Monday before His death, Jesus was coming towards Jerusalem when He arrived at the Mount of Olives (located just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem). The significance of this day, the 10th of Nissan, is that it was the lamb selection day. Since this was the week of Passover, every family brought a lamb without blemish to be sacrificed on Friday which was the day of Passover. The Passover meal was the night before when Jesus took it with His disciples.

The high priests were looking for the “perfect” lamb on this day that would be the ‘Passover Lamb’ for the people of Israel. Its blood would be taken by the High Priest into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant. And he would pray for the forgiveness of the sins of the people for the last year. This day, known as Yom Kippur, was the most significant day in the life of every Jew.

What is most interesting is this (and I will expound upon it later in our study), on the very day that the priest were on the Mount of Olives looking for the perfect lamb of God, Jesus arrives. There is no more significant statement about Who Jesus is than this. John the Baptist had proclaimed it much earlier in Jesus’s ministry as he said in John 1:29, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

The priests were looking for a lamb to sacrifice but they didn’t realize that He was standing right in front of them. They were looking for a little lamb that was spotless. They missed The Lamb who was slain from before the creation of the world! As it turns out, God had already chosen His spotless Lamb to be offered up for all who would believe. God loves this world so much, that He gave His one and only Son to be the Lamb that was slain for our sins. He became our atoning sacrifice.

Dear Father, Thank You for the Lamb of God that takes away our sin. Thank You for the sacrifice You were willing to make. Help me to never forget what You have done so that I could be forgiven and made new. In Jesus Name, Amen