

Leader Guide

Here I Am

Spring 2025 | Week 2

Message Date 4/13/2025

THE GOAL

Happy Easter, or at least Happy Passion Week. This is the time in history when so much happens to Jesus in between His entry into Jerusalem and His crucifixion and resurrection. We are going to be unpacking four things that Jesus did specifically this week. The goal is to have some great conversations and application around each of these areas. This will be structured a little differently because we won't be using one big passage of Scripture but different snippets throughout Passion Week.

MY STORY

- 1) If your pet (or favorite animal) had a job, what would it be?
- 2) What's a useless superpower that would still somehow be kind of fun?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

This week Pastor Craig shared 4 takeaways from Passion Week, and we will be unpacking them one at a time.

Jesus defined what HIS Church would look like.

Luke 19:45–46 (NIV)

⁴⁵When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling.

⁴⁶"It is written," he said to them, "My house will be a house of prayer"; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

- 4) What does this passage teach us about Jesus' perspective and what was going on in the temple?

It shows us several things: first, they were buying and selling items for sacrifice. Animals like doves, sheep and goats were being sold. There were also money changers for people who traveled, and they were charging exorbitant rates. In its simplest terms, they were misusing the main thing that Jesus had for them. Bottom line, He was disappointed and angry.

5) What would it look like for our church to be a house of prayer and how can we model that? What are some ways we could shift and lose sight of our purpose? First of all, we don't need the building to be a house of prayer. We are the Kingdom of God, and anywhere we are can become a house of prayer. It's more of a mindset. In what ways can we live that cause us *not* to be a house of prayer? One of the ways we can shift and lose sight of our purpose is by focusing all we do around politics or the latest trend in culture instead of following Jesus. Frankly, anything that takes our eyes away from Jesus and His mission in this world is an easy way to shift and lose sight of what He has for us.

Jesus would challenge us to HOLD nothing back.

Luke 21:1–4 (NIV)

¹As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.

²He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.

³"Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

6) What does the widow's offering teach us about faith, and what does Jesus say about it?

It teaches us that she had great faith. She did not have much, but she sacrificed the little she had. It really teaches us that it is not about the amount, but the heart behind the amount. Jesus praises her gift because it is greater proportionally than the large gifts others were putting in.

7) Is there something that God wants you to surrender that you are holding back, or has there been a time in your life when you have held stuff back? What did you do, or what can you do about it?

(Justin) When I was young in my faith, I was not a consistent giver. I never really took the challenge of tithing. I was too afraid that I wouldn't have enough. I had a scarcity mindset because I made so little and feared I would run out or that God wouldn't provide. When Stacy and I married she was the one doing the giving, and I was not an active participant at all. Then many years ago I felt challenged to be an active part of this because it was a part of my obedience. So, I did. I'll be honest, I am so grateful that I have. I have been faithful in this area that I was holding back. I have seen God's blessing and watched Him do things I couldn't imagine.

Jesus would challenge WHO is actually in control.

Luke 21:25–28 (NIV)

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

- 8) Are there things in this world that are causing you anxiety? How would that change if we really trusted that Jesus was on the throne?

Not to get political, but let's be honest, far too many people get caught up in watching headlines and news stories and their focus shifts to that. Jesus, sitting on the throne, causes me to have peace because it doesn't matter what's going on around me. He is still in control.

9) How does Jesus coming back one day bring you hope in the middle of chaos? It reminds me that this life is short. Jesus coming back one day is going to restore and redeem all things. This gives me great hope. No matter how things get, no matter how ugly it looks, no matter how bad it is, one day it will all be changed and redeemed. It will not stay like this forever no matter how dark it seems.

Jesus defines what GREATNESS in the Kingdom of God is.

Luke 22:25–27 (NIV)

²⁵Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

- 10) According to this passage, what does Jesus define as greatness, and how is it different from the Gentiles' definition?

This is the place where servant leadership comes from—Jesus was leading them, but He was also serving them. He wasn't lording over them or demanding they serve Him. It was the opposite. The idea of lording over someone is more about control than leadership.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions, and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Read Luke Chapters 19, 20, 21. What is your takeaway from Passion Week?
- 2) Of the four areas we talked about, which is the one God is pointing out to you that you need to work on the most?
- 3) Is there something new Jesus wants to teach you about Him during Passion Week?