



Seven Days

A Devotional for Easter Week

By Glenn Seddon

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A Devotion for preparation of the heart and
growing in faith, hope and love

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For our beautiful church

The Victorious ones
The Bride
The Hope of the World
Faithful and Full of Faith

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Although I've included a short prayer for each day (a few powerful prayers indeed), please consider those written prayers as a starting point. Feel free to pray what's on your heart each day, as you journey with the Holy Spirit this week.

May the Father bless you in comprehending His love for you and the good and perfect plan that He has!

Palm Sunday

Read John 12:12-19

A lot can happen in 7 days!

New habits can form, good or bad. A job promotion out of the blue, a change in direction, a new skill, a long awaited vindication, a breakdown of relationship or restoration and so much more. The possibilities are endless.

But God knows and He has a plan.

Jesus entered Jerusalem, humbly, on a foal, and yet victorious, rightly celebrated by most and worshipped as King on that very first Palm Sunday.

And yet, just a few days later

He was turned on, abandoned, betrayed, alone, mocked, beaten, tortured and killed.

And in just a few days later (spoiler alert)

He rose, victorious over death, confirmed by the Almighty to be the Saviour of the World, The Lamb, God incarnate, The Messiah, The Christ.

God had a plan! And in seven days, the plan which He had in place before time, was revealed and fulfilled.

Father, lead me this week to a fuller understanding of your love for me, my family, friends, church and community. May I be transformed more into the likeness of You Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Monday

Ephesians 1:3-14 & Jeremiah 29:11

God has great plans for you. He knows what they are and they are good. Indeed He has more than one plan for your life. Notice that Jeremiah 29:11 says plans, not just plan. He has back up plans and plans for multiple facets of your life.

God planned Good Friday from before the creation of the world. In other words, He planned to die for you and for me, to restore His relationship with us, before Adam, Eve and of course, you and I had sinned for the very first time.

His plan is so much better than ours.

Yesterday we read that the people shouted 'Hosanna, Hosanna!' as Jesus was riding into Jerusalem.

‘Hosanna’ is a special word in which we don’t really have an equivalent in English for it. That’s why the translators leave it as Hosanna much of the time.

It’s a word of praise, of celebration and of petition!

It means we honour you for saving us, you’re our saviour, you have saved us and would you please save us.

A cry for what hasn’t happened yet at the same time recognising, celebrating and worshipping that this person is the saviour.

The people were crying out for a saviour. Someone that would rescue them from the hardship of the Roman occupation, the virtual slavery to the emperor and his governors. A foreign and corrupt government limiting their freedom, humiliating them and more.

They thought Jesus would liberate them from the bondage of Rome.

They were wrong.

His plan was so much better!

He came to liberate us from ourselves!

To see victory over sin, death and eternal separation from God.

His plan was bigger, better and longer lasting than anything we could think up.

Thank you God that your plan for my life is so much better than I could ever think or imagine.

Thank you for the cross, the plan of my redemption, the plan of my forgiveness and restoration. Your plan is bigger, better and eternal.

Thank you for the specific plans you have for me, my ministry, my work, my family. Help me to know what your plans are and that I would partner with You and what You are doing.

Tuesday

John 14:1-14

Jesus knows.

He knows your past and your future and He deeply cares.

He knows He is about to die, to leave the disciples and so He prepares them. He comforts, teaches and guides them with respect to what's about to happen.

He is so kind.

He's doing that for you too.

Whether you realise it or not, He is preparing you, teaching you, guiding you, comforting you and so much more.

Be encouraged by that news.

Let hope arise.

Let faith be stirred in you.

In verse 6 we are reminded that He is the way, He is truth, He is the life.

Keep Jesus at the centre of your plans.

He is your plan!

*Lord, you are our way, our truth and our life!
Our salvation, our hope and our promise.*

In everything God, we look to you!

Wednesday

John 14:15-31

It's a cliché but it's true.

Where God guides He provides.

The greatest provision Jesus has given us is the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus went back to the Father (John 14:12) we have been empowered to do even greater things than what Jesus did.

Jesus returned to the Father and top of His to do list was to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is personal.
Not a force.

One of the three persons of the triune God.
Fully God.

Jesus says the Holy Spirit is another counsellor (14:16 NIV). Other translations say comforter or advocate and others say Paraclete (the Greek is Paracletos) because the translation is unclear. Or more accurately not full enough.

I mean how do you define a member of the Holy Trinity with one word?

Perhaps the answer is found when we dig into the word 'another' v16. The original language says 'allon' and it means 'another, but exactly the same'.

Holy Spirit is just like Jesus.

To look at Jesus, His qualities, His characteristics, His ways, His promises, is to look at Holy Spirit.

He is just like Jesus!

And He, lives in you and is with you if you have said yes to Jesus and His free gift of salvation.

The Holy Spirit is our connection to God the Father, to God the Son and of course God the Holy Spirit.

He is our guide, our provision, our power, our advocate, counsellor and so much more.

Jesus was God with us (Emanuel - Is 7:14, Mat 1:23).

The Holy Spirit is God in us!

Father thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit, to guide us, to teach us, to empower us.

Lord I want to know you more.

To know Your ways.

To know Your voice.

To know You.

Thursday

John 18

God's plan is beyond our imagination and most definitely our comprehension.

His plan included betrayal, power hungry and desperate politicians, military men doing as they were told. The high priest unknowingly doing the will of God and His best friends deserting Him.

All of these people exercising their freewill contributed to God's plan.

Freewill and God's sovereignty work hand in hand.

God's plan in your life includes unexpected circumstances, disappointments and even betrayal.

Sometimes we are betrayed and sometimes we are the betrayer.

And yet, Paul tells us, and this chapter in the book of John we just read illustrates to us, 'that all things work for the good of those that love Him and are called according to His purpose' (Romans 8:32).

And you are called!

Paul continues to say that we are predestined, that He foreknew.

It was His plan.

And His plan is for us to be just like Jesus too!

That we would be conformed into the likeness of Jesus, with the help of Holy Spirit, who looks just like Jesus, who happens to just live in you and me.

And His plan to *recreate* you into His image (just like Gen 1:26 talks about) included you messing up and others messing you up and well I'm sure you get the idea.

Jesus, in the garden, the garden of pressing

Sweating drops of blood due to extreme stress.

Alone and in prayer, prays

“Not my will but Yours” - Mat 26:40.

Father, I pray for blessing We don't seek adversity and I know good things come from you and you alone.

And still I pray, conform me into the image of Your Son.

Your will be done, on earth, in my life, as it is in Heaven.

Good Friday

Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, John 19:1-37.

God was pointing towards this day for centuries.

The Psalms, Isaiah, the writings of Moses, the other prophetic old testament books, were all written hundreds of years before Good Friday.

Passover points forward over 1000 years to this moment.

Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac at this very location years before that.

The tabernacle and the religious laws foreshadowed and were all fulfilled through this one act of love.

Man and God was reconciled once again through the highest of high priests and the most perfect of sacrificial lambs in one.

Jesus beaten.

Jesus hanging there.

Cursed.

Slowly dying for you and me.

And yet we call it good.

With each breath, He lifted Himself with strength from His legs, using the nail in His feet and further aggravating his already beaten back.

Each breath was a breath of victory, over sin, over the curse of sickness, over death.

Over eternal separation from God.

At one moment he cried out 'Eloi Eloi, Lama Sabachthani'. It means My God, My God, why have You forsaken me' and it's an obvious reference to Psalm 22.

Perhaps it was at this moment that He experienced for the first time a separation from the Father, as the sins of the world were once and forever punished in Jesus.

Jesus fully God.

Jesus fully man.

Jesus, the reconciler of God and man.
That we could be one with Him and the Father.

This day His plan was revealed.

His punishment was meant to be ours.
His death was ours.
His victory became ours.
His life is now ours too.

Jesus cries out one more time.
He knows His time has come.

And so Psalm 22's last line now comes forth from the lips
of our beautiful beaten saviour.
"It is finished!"

The temple curtain was torn in two.
The curtain that separated God's presence and man (for
our well being).

It's almost like God couldn't wait another second to be
reunited with His children.

It reminds me of the Father, running, undignified to the
returning prodigal.

Love in action.
Love on full display!

Saturday

John 19:38-42

Silence.

The waiting.

Disappointment.

Disillusionment, emptiness.

Disbelief.....

Sunday's coming.

Waking up oh it's not a dream.

Anger.

Fear.

What ifs.....

Sunday's coming.

Your dreams have died.

Life turned left, when you wanted to go right.

Broken relationships.

Anxiety!

Sunday's coming!

It looks finished.
All hope is gone.
Surely this time it is impossible.

Be of courage!
Sunday is still coming!

The Lord is working to resurrect dreams.
To restore relationships.
To conquer sickness and death.
To bring peace.
To bring hope.

Sunday is coming!

Lazarus was dead four days when Jesus arrived on the scene. Jewish belief was that the persons spirit hovered over the body for four days, but then was gone.

His sisters said, well if you had of been here, you could of healed him.

Yes He is healer but He wanted to make a statement and so even after four days, He raised Lazarus from the dead. The most impossible is indeed possible with Him.

“I am the resurrection and the life”(John 11:25) Jesus said.

Jesus, the name above all names.
He is King overall.

In the stillness.
In the waiting.
Jesus is still working.

And Sunday is still coming!

About the Author



Glenn is a son, a husband, a dad, pastor, musician and God chaser. He is passionate about revival and seeing God given the glory that He deserves.

If you are in the area, C3 Southern Beaches would love to connect with you at some point in the future and if not, you can join us online at c3southernbeaches.com.au with live services, teaching and more.

God bless