

DAY

1

Friday

What would you do if you only had 10 days to live?

What would you say?

Where would you go?

Who would you invite over for dinner?

10 Days with Jesus is an online experience that will immerse you into the final days of Jesus the Messiah. We'll go where he goes, see what he sees, and hear what he says. We'll investigate His outlandish claims and witness the supernatural events that surrounded what we often call - Passion Week.

Imagine spending 10 Days with Jesus - The one who taught the masses, turned the water into wine, healed the sick, raised the dead, and claimed to be God! I mean, really . . . who claims to be God? One thing is for sure - if you spent 10 Days with Jesus, you'd never be the same again! Whatcha' think? Are you ready to go on a 10-day journey?

The Backside of Nowhere.

The story of Easter starts in the wilderness. The Jewish leaders had finally had enough of the Jesus craze and had issued a death wish on Jesus and his followers. Meanwhile, the crowds started showing up in droves to get in on the action.

Apparently raising Lazarus from the dead had put Jesus into some serious hot water. The religious leaders were cool with the “water-to-wine thing”, and to help us feed the masses program, and to fix our health care dilemma - but raising a man from the dead was over the top. It was too much. It was . . . well . . . it was something they’d never seen before. Something different.

So, in preparation for his final assignment as the Savior of the World, Jesus and the twelve disciples headed into the desert to catch a breath. I’m not sure about you, but this is the point of the story where I would exit stage right. See ya!

But not Jesus. He was on a mission.

It’s GO Time.

The Passover was just around the corner, and Jesus had a job to do. An assignment that began in the Garden of Eden when Adam told God - NO.

God had given Adam one rule to establish himself as the ruler. Outside of that one rule, Adam was free to enjoy everything! But that one rule came with a warning, “if you disobey my rule . . . the penalty will be death” (Genesis 2). That seems like a pretty harsh punishment to me, but ultimately God was saying to Adam . . .

“I AM YOUR LIFE. Anything other than me is DEATH.”

You guessed it. Right after God gave Adam these instructions, Adam chose to tell God NO and ignore his command. Within minutes of that one decision, Adam and his wife Eve were hiding in the bushes and blaming each other. Death had now entered the story. But God refused to let the story end with death as the victor. Right there in front of God and everybody - God made a promise!

God promised that he would cover the payment that sin required. More specifically, that his son Jesus would BE the payment that sin required. It was time to GO. The world had waited long enough.

The Messiah was on the move with his twelve disciples and a crowd in tow. They were dustily making their way from the wilderness to the Passover city of Jerusalem. Passover was the annual celebration that helped the Jewish nation look forward to their coming Messiah. They would sacrifice a ceremonial lamb while they waited for “The Lamb of God” to finally arrive.

The Messiah seemed long overdue and they had grown weary of waiting. They were tired of paying for their sins with the all-too-frequent trips to the Temple. The rituals of confession and sacrifices had taken their toll. The whole world was waiting for the Messiah to come - and he was on his way!

Let’s Have a Talk.

Shortly before they reached the city, Jesus stopped short. He needed to prep his disciples for what was about to happen. No matter how many times he had tried to tell them, they just didn’t get it. They didn’t truly understand his mission of redemption. So . . . like any good teacher, he pulled them away from the crowd and had a true “come to Jesus talk.”

“Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man (Jesus) will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence me to die. Then they will hand me over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day, I will be raised from the dead.” ~ Mark 10:33-34

Talk about a bombshell. The disciples thought they were on their way to a huge party, but Jesus was prepping them for a crucifixion. They were looking for a

King to set them free and this plan didn't seem very kingly. Two of the disciples, James and John, had heard enough . . .

“Hey Jesus, thanks for sharing all that intimate stuff about persecution, crucifixion, and resurrection - but we've got a super important question for you! When you finally get your Kingdom all setup, can we sit on either side of your throne? That'd be really cool. Can we? Can we? Can we?”
~ Mark 10:35-37 (Paraphrased).

Talk about missing the point. Jesus had lived his entire life for the sole purpose of GIVING, but his disciples were only interested in GETTING.

Let's Try Again.

Jesus knew that the only way his followers would truly understand serving was to see it in action. The events of the next 10 Days with Jesus would re-frame their entire view of serving. Giving themselves away would take on a whole new meaning.

Jesus said it this way . . .

“Whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” ~ Mark 10:44-45

But here's the twist. We're quick to jump on the bandwagon of Jesus giving his life away for us . . . but the primary point of the whole story was that Jesus was asking his disciples to do the very same thing for others.

10 Days from now it would be their turn to serve.

How About You?

- Are you following Jesus for what he can give you?
- Are you more interested in the blessings of Jesus than the mission of Jesus?
- Who can you serve today by giving them your time, your resources, your affection . . . YOURSELF?