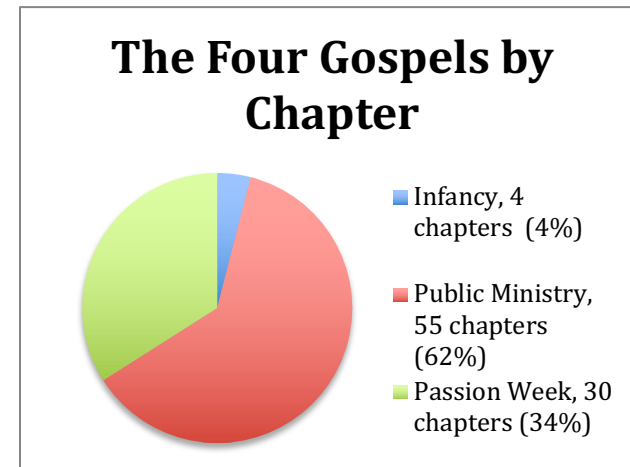


## Passion Week: Following Jesus to the Cross and Beyond . . .

Only two of the Gospels (Matthew and Luke) tell us about the birth of Jesus. They tell us very little about Jesus' life before he began his ministry. They focus on his ministry after his baptism by John, but they especially emphasize the last week of his earthly life on earth. That tells us that the heart of the Gospels and the gospel itself is the cross and the empty tomb.

Think about it in terms of chapters in the Gospels. There are 89 chapters in the four Gospels combined. Four (4) chapters, roughly 4.5% of the Gospel chapters, cover the roughly one year period leading up to Jesus' birth. Fifty-five (55) chapters (roughly 62% of the chapters) cover his three-year ministry up to the passion, and 30 chapters (roughly 34% of the chapters) cover the last week. If you break it down, that's about .08 chapters per week for Jesus' infancy, .37 chapters per week for Jesus' public ministry, and 30 chapters for the last week! **Based on chapters, the Gospels devote 80 times as much space to the Passion as they do to Jesus public ministry overall!**



The Gospels tell us what happened during that last week harmoniously, like the voices in a quartet. They are all “reading the same music” (the words and deeds of Jesus), but they are not always “singing the same notes.” Each of them has its own way of telling the story to emphasize the author’s pastoral concern for the church. Each Gospel is selective and thematic, not completely comprehensive and precisely chronological. Together, **the fourfold Gospel tells us *everything we need to equip us for our faith and life in Christ, not necessarily everything we want to satisfy our curiosity.***

The Table below is based on Matthew’s order. The Gospels include few specific time references. The overall flow of the week is clear, but exactly when things happened on each day is not as clear. Also, in Jewish reckoning, each day begins at sundown.

## The Passion Week in the Fourfold Gospel Tradition

There are two ways to use this table. For a quick “helicopter flyover” of the main events during the Passion Week, look for the **bold print** below. If you want to **hike step by step** through the week with Jesus, notice the indented details under the bold main sections.

Day	Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>Saturday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus has left Galilee for Jerusalem</b></li> <li>- Ministry east of the Jordan River</li> <li>- Jesus hears of Lazarus' illness and leaves for Bethany</li> <li>- Healing the blind men on the way to Jerusalem</li> <li>- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead</li> <li>- Religious leaders plot to kill Jesus</li> <li>- Crowd visits Jesus and Lazarus; leaders plot to kill them both</li> </ul>	<b>19:1-20:34</b> 19:1-20:16  20:29-34	<b>10:1-52</b> 10:1-31  10:46-52	<b>(Luke 9:51)</b> (18:15-30)  18:35-43	(John 10:40) 11:1-16  11:17-44 11:45-57 12:9-11
<b>Sunday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey</b></li> <li>- Greeks desire to see Jesus</li> <li>- Jesus responds to unbelief</li> <li>- Jesus returns to Bethany</li> </ul>	<b>21:1-11</b>	<b>11:1-10</b>  11:11	<b>19:28-44</b>	<b>12:12-19</b> 12:20-36 12:37-50
<b>Monday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus clears the Temple</b></li> <li>• <b>Jesus curses the fig tree</b></li> </ul>	<b>21:12-17</b> <b>21:18-19</b>	<b>11:15-19</b> <b>11:12-14</b>	<b>19:45-48</b>	<b>(2:13-22)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus teaches about the fig tree</b></li> <li>• <b>Controversies in the Temple</b></li> <li>- Jesus questioned about his authority</li> <li>- Parable of the two sons</li> <li>- Parable of the tenant farmers</li> <li>- Parable of the wedding feast</li> <li>- Paying taxes to Caesar</li> <li>- Sadducees' question about the resurrection</li> <li>- Pharisees' question about the great commandment</li> <li>- Jesus' question about David's Son</li> <li>- Jesus' seven woes against the scribes and Pharisees</li> <li>- Jesus laments over Jerusalem</li> <li>- The widow's small offering</li> <li>• <b>Jesus teaches about the end as he leaves the Temple</b></li> <li>- Jesus promises the Temple will be destroyed</li> <li>- the sign of Jesus' coming and the end of the age</li> <li>- the abomination that causes desolation</li> <li>- the coming of the Son of Man</li> <li>- the lesson of the fig tree</li> <li>- being ready for the unknown, unexpected hour</li> <li>- Parable of the wise and wicked servants</li> </ul>	<b>21:20-22</b> <b>21:23-23:39</b> 21:23-27 21:28-32 21:33-46 22:1-14 22:15-22 22:23-33 22:34-40 22:41-46 23:1-36 23:37-39  <b>24:1-25:46</b> 24:1-2 24:3-8 24:15-28 24:29-31 24:32-35 24:36-44 24:45-51	<b>11:20-25</b> <b>11:27-12:44</b> 11:27-33  12:1-12  12:13-17 12:18-27 12:28-34 12:35-37a 12:37b-40  12:41-44  <b>13:1-37</b> 13:1-2 13:3-8 13:14-23 13:24-27 13:28-31 13:32-37	<b>20:1-21:4</b> 20:1-8  20:9-19 (14:15-24) 20:20-26 20:27-40 (10:25-28) 20:41-44 20:45-47 (13:34-35) 21:1-4 <b>21:5-36</b> 21:5-6 21:7-11 21:20-28 21:25-28 21:29-33 (17:26-30, 34-36) (12:41-48)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parable of the ten bridesmaids</li> <li>- Parable of the talents</li> <li>- Judgment of the nations</li> </ul>	<p>25:1-13 25:14-30 25:31-46</p>		(19:11-27)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus continues teaching in the temple</li> <li>• Religious leaders plot to arrest and execute Jesus</li> <li>• Jesus is anointed by Mary in Bethany</li> </ul>	<p>26:3-5 26:6-13</p>	<p>14:1-2 14:3-9</p>	<p>20:47; 21:37-38 22:1-2 (7:36-50?)</p>	<p>12:1-8</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus' last supper with the disciples</li> <li>• Jesus washes the disciples' feet</li> <li>• Jesus teaches the disciples about the coming Comforter</li> <li>• Jesus prays for his disciples and future followers</li> <li>• Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane</li> </ul>	<p>26:20-35 26:36-46</p>	<p>14:17-26 14:43-52</p>	<p>22:14-30 22:39-46</p>	<p>13 14-16 17 (12:27)</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus betrayed and arrested; the disciples flee</li> <li>• Jesus' trials before religious leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annas</li> <li>- Caiaphas and leaders decide Jesus is worthy of death</li> <li>- Jesus beaten and taunted</li> <li>- Peter denies the Lord</li> <li>- Sanhedrin decides to send Jesus to Pilate for execution</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jesus' trials before Roman authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judas commits suicide (Acts 1:18-19)</li> <li>- Pilate</li> <li>- Herod Antipas</li> <li>- Pilate proclaims Jesus innocent and sentences him to death</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jesus' crucifixion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus' mocked by the soldiers</li> <li>- Jesus is crucified</li> <li>- Placing of a sign on the cross</li> <li>- Jesus is mocked by bystanders, leaders, soldiers, 2 criminals</li> <li>- Jesus speaks to the criminals crucified with him and one believes</li> <li>- Jesus speaks to his mother and the beloved disciple</li> <li>- Jesus dies</li> <li>- Temple curtain torn</li> <li>- Earthquake and dead people in tombs revived</li> <li>- Centurion says Jesus truly was the son of God</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jesus is buried <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joseph of Arimathea requests Jesus' body from Pilate</li> <li>- Nicodemus brings spices;</li> <li>- Joseph and Nicodemus place Jesus' body in Joseph's new tomb</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pilate orders the tomb sealed and guarded</li> </ul>	<p>26:47-56 26:57-27:2</p> <p>26:57-66 26:67-68 26:69-75 27:1-2</p> <p>27:3-26 27:3-10 27:11-14</p> <p>27:15-26</p> <p>27:27-54 27:27-31 27:32-36 27:37 27:38-44</p> <p>27:45-56 27:51 27:51-53 27:54</p> <p>27:57-61 27:57-58 27:59-60</p> <p>27:62-66</p>	<p>14:43-52 14:53-15:1</p> <p>14:53-64 14:65 14:66-72 15:1</p> <p>15:2-15</p> <p>15:1-5 15:6-15 15:16-39 15:16-20 15:21-25 15:26 15:27-32</p> <p>15:33-41 15:38 15:39</p> <p>15:42-47 15:44-45 15:46</p>	<p>22:47-53 22:54-71</p> <p>22:54-55 22:63-65 22:56-62 22:66-71</p> <p>23:1-25</p> <p>23:1-5 23:6-12 23:13-25 23:26-49 (22:63-65) 23:26-34 23:38 23:35-37 23:39-43</p> <p>23:44-49 23:45 23:47</p> <p>23:50-54 23:53 23:53</p>	<p>18:1-12 18:13-24 18:13-14 18:19-24</p> <p>18:15-18, 25-27</p> <p>18:28-19:16</p> <p>18:28-38</p> <p>18:39-19:16</p> <p>19:16-37 (19:2-3) 19:16-18 19:19-22</p> <p>19:25-27 19:28-30</p> <p>19:38-42 19:38 19:39 19:40-42</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>Jesus' body is in the tomb, and the disciples are still hiding (Matt 23:56; Mark 14:50). The women who witnessed the crucifixion and burial (Mark 14:40-41; Luke 23:27, 49) are keeping the Sabbath. They plan to come Sunday with more spices for Jesus' body (Luke 23:55-56). They will be in the upper room with the blessed virgin Mary as the followers of Jesus anticipate the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 1:14).</p>				

<b>Sunday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus has been raised from the dead!</b></li> <li>- The women discover the empty tomb</li> <li>- Jesus appears to the women</li> <li>- Jesus' resurrection reported by the tomb guards</li> <li>- Jesus' resurrection reported by the women</li> <li>- Peter and the beloved disciple see the empty tomb</li> <li>- Jesus appears to the two men on the road to Emmaus</li> <li>- the two men report to the disciples in Jerusalem</li> <li>- Jesus appears to Peter</li> <li>- Jesus appears to the disciples (Thomas absent)</li> </ul>	<b>28:1-20</b> 28:1-8 28:9-10 28:11-15	<b>16:1-8 [9-20]</b> 16:1-8 [16:9]  [16:10-11]  [16:12]	<b>24:1-12-Acts 9</b> 24:1-8  24:9-11 24:12 24:13-32 24:33-35 24:34 24:36-43	<b>20:1-21:25</b> 20:1, 11-13 20:14-17  20:2,18 20:2-10  20:19-23
<b>Later . . .</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus appears to the disciples a week later (Thomas present)</li> <li>- Jesus appears to the 11 disciples in Galilee</li> <li>- Jesus appears to seven disciples and reaffirms Peter</li> <li>- Jesus sends the church to disciple the nations</li> <li>- Jesus appears to more than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6)</li> <li>- Jesus appears to his brother James (1 Corinthians 15:7)</li> <li>- Jesus spends 40 days with the disciples and then ascends</li> <li>- Peter leads the church in selecting Judas' replacement Matthias</li> <li>- Jesus sends the Spirit on Pentecost</li> <li>- Stephen sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God</li> <li>- Jesus appears to Paul and sends him to the Gentiles (1 Cor 15:8)</li> <li>- Jesus speaks to Paul in a vision</li> </ul>	 28:16-17  28:18-20	 [16:14]  [16:15-18]  [16:19-20]	  24:44-49  24:50-51; Acts 1 Acts 1:15-26 Acts 2:32-33 Acts 7:56 Acts 9:1-19 Acts 18:9-10	20:24-29  21:1-19 (20:21-23)

For a unique approach to the passion week, go to <http://www.joyfulheart.com/holy-week/>. Here you will watch the passion week unfold as the biblical story is accompanied by the paintings of James J. Tissot (1836-1902).

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