

**Episode:** One Hit Wonders Series No. 01

**Narrator:** Donkey Owner

**Primary Scriptures:** Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:1-19

**Story Summary:** The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

**Location:** Mount of Olives

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Matthew 21:3; Luke 19:44; John 12:19

In varying amounts of detail, the Triumphal Entry is described in all four gospel accounts. Only Matthew and John were present at the event, and all four gospel writers had different purposes in choosing the details of their story line.

Although the Triumphal Entry is traditionally taken to have happened on the Sunday before the crucifixion of Jesus, experts vary on the exact day it happened. John wrote that Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover, and indicates the entry happened the next day. Based on the placement of the passages in the other gospels, it could be interpreted that the entry could have happened as late as two days before Passover.

John says that people were going to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Matthew indicates a donkey and its colt were to be brought to Jesus, while the other three gospels mention only a colt. Luke indicates the colt had more than one owner. Mark and Luke have Jesus saying the colt will be unriden.

All of the writers have a common goal of relating the event and crowd's reactions to at least two scriptures:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion: shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” Zechariah 9:9

“Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord.” Psalm 118:26

When Jesus arrived on the top of the Mount of Olives, he would have looked over the western side of the Mount, across the Kidron Valley, up the eastern side of the Temple Mount, and at the Temple. The Temple was ornately covered with gifts and offerings, many of which were made of gold. It must have been quite a sight to see the many thousands of pilgrims with their campfires, the fires of sacrifice at the Temple, the ancient graves of the prophets, and the city of Jerusalem. The followers of Jesus were rightly impressed with what they could see. Jesus, however, was sorrowful. He could envision the future destruction of everything that his followers were admiring.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What miracle preceded the Triumphal Entry? What was the tie between that miracle and the Triumphal Entry?
2. If you were a religious leader, what would you have done upon hearing that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead?
3. How many of the gospels describe the Triumphal Entry?
4. What were some of the things that the followers of Jesus admired about the Temple?
5. Why was Jesus specific about which donkey he wanted?

1. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This miracle was done in Bethany, a town only five miles from Jerusalem. According to John 12:9, a large crowd of Jews went to Bethany to confirm that Lazarus was alive. 2. Probably the same thing that the religious leaders of that time wanted...kill him and eliminate the evidence. John 12:10 3. All four. Some details differ among the accounts. 4. The Temple was adorned with extravagant gifts from rich people. Many of the rocks of the Temple grounds and walls were massive, and all were impressively cut. Herod had spared no expense when building the Temple Mount. 5. In order to fulfill Scripture.

### Application Questions:

1. Many theologians describe God as not needing anything from mankind. In what ways did Jesus need the donkey foal? In what ways does Jesus need something from you?
2. The common people recognized the messiahship of Jesus before the Jewish leaders. Do your religious beliefs ever hinder your heart from accepting Jesus as your master?
3. What is the most beautiful church building you have ever seen? Imagine it as a complete ruin.

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. What does Jesus need from you that you can give him? Are you willing to do that?
2. A medium-size college football stadium holds 50,000 people. Imagine that many people witnessing the Triumphal Entry, and describe the level of sound they would have made?
3. There were certainly thousands of children who witnessed the Triumphal Entry, and would have gone home with an incredible memory. What is a memory you have that is permanently inscribed?

**Episode:** Three Gospels Series No. 08

**Narrator:** Lazarus

**Primary Scriptures:** John 9-12

**Story Summary:** Later ministry of Jesus, seven miraculous signs

**Location:** Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** John 9:3, 5, 25; 10:11, 14, 29; 11:4, 25, 41-42; 12:7, 25-26, 50

The video for this episode concentrates on a selected set of miraculous signs by Jesus. These are:

- Changing water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11)
- Healing the official's son from a distance (John 4:46-54)
- Healing the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-5)
- Feeding the five thousand (John 6:5-14)
- Jesus walking on the water (John 6:16-24)
- Healing the man blind from birth who washed in the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-7)
- The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Each of these miracles seems to be carrying multiple themes. Jesus isn't just changing water to wine—he's also showing that a new way to worship God has arrived, and this new way is better than the old. The healing of the official's son shows the importance of faith, and that Jesus is not limited by normal limitations. The healing of the paralytic shows that Jesus is ruler of the Sabbath, the feeding of the five thousand that Jesus gives true life, and walking on the water that Jesus is the ruler of all nature.

The Bible doesn't say where the blind man was when he met Jesus, but more than likely he was a fair distance away from the Pool of Siloam, which is located at the end of the tunnel built by King Hezekiah and is downhill from most of Jerusalem. As he gained his sight, the man would have been able to see the Temple Mount about one-half of a mile uphill to the north. He must have been amazed!

In John 9:1-2, Jesus upends the notion that people's sins always make them materially or physically disadvantaged. This would have been a direct threat to a common teaching of the day that disadvantaged people were that way because of sin, while advantaged people were that way because of righteousness.

The resurrection of Lazarus shows that Jesus rules over death and can bring life into any situation. The one thing all these miracles have in common is this: they all point to the fact that God is to be glorified in every situation because he is the Master of All.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the important things to know about Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine? (John 2)
  2. What was the second miracle that Jesus performed in public, and what are some important things to know about it? (John 4)
  3. Name some important things about healing the man born blind from birth? (John 9)
1. The miracle of changing water into wine was the first miracle Jesus performed; it signifies that a new religious order has arrived and it is better than the old; the superabundance of wine signifies the overwhelming benevolence of God; that Jesus has control over the natural order of the world. 2. Healing the official's son from a distance. The official was from Capernaum, soon to be Jesus' headquarters. The official was a royal official, probably for Herod Antipas who ruled from nearby Tiberias. It never hurts to have friends in high places, so there is no telling how he might have influenced things over the coming years. 3. Jesus used the situation to declare that underprivileged people are not being punished for their sins, and that declaring God's glory is paramount. The man had to have faith to walk to the Pool of Siloam to get healed. The Pharisees wielded the weapon of putting people out of the Temple to threaten the man and his parents. To the blind man, his healing trumped all religious arguments.

### Application Questions:

1. In John 9:2, the disciples of Jesus could see only two alternatives to the reasons that people suffered. Do you find that you limit your alternatives to obvious or accepted answers? With religious questions, do you tend to want a clear answer rather than answers that require uncertain or multiple interpretations?
2. In John 10:27, Jesus says that his sheep listen to his voice. How do you listen to his voice? If you are not listening, are you one of Jesus' sheep? How can you learn to listen better?
3. In John 11:44, Jesus commanded that others help Lazarus take off his grave clothes. Why might he have done that, and how might that principle apply to you and your faith community?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. You might hear people use the miracle of changing water into wine as "proof" that Jesus approves of people drinking wine. Without regard to whether drinking wine is right or wrong, is that an appropriate way to use this story? How can you be careful not to misuse Bible verses?
2. In John 11:49-50, Caiaphas makes a big assumption and tries to convince others it is true so he can justify his upcoming actions. Does this happen today among people in positions of authority? What can you do about it if so?

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 18

**Narrator:** Andrew

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 19:28-48, 20, 21

**Story Summary:** Last week of Jesus' life

**Location:** Jerusalem

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 19:43-44, 20:17, 20:25, 21:3-4, 21:6, 21:17-19

In order to get a fuller picture of the last week of Jesus' life, you have to read all four Gospels, where each writer emphasizes different events and details. One of Luke's special points was the opposition of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders to the ministry of Jesus.

In Luke's account, Jesus knew the physical manifestation of the Jewish leaders' emphasis, the Temple, would soon come to an end. The Temple, built by Herod, was a magnificent building, but Jesus knew that it would be demolished in about forty more years.

Jesus also knew the spiritual manifestation of the Jewish leaders' emphasis, ritual and rule-following, would soon come to an end. Without the Temple, many of their religious rites would automatically disappear. While their emphasis on man-made rules might not disappear, it would be shown to be useless.

The story of the widow's mites (small coins) is well-known. As you think of the story, consider that Jesus' mother was a widow. Jesus would have known the sacrifice the woman made. He must have already been thinking about his mother and what would happen to her after his death. Imagine the other details of life that Jesus must have considered as he faced his impending death. Like all of us, he surely felt he had more to do than time in which to do it.

As you read the different Gospel accounts of the last week of Jesus' life, you have to be struck with his desperate efforts to teach his enemies as well as his friends. Jesus so badly wants to help everyone that he uses his precious time to convince everyone of his truth. However, with time running out, he talks with his followers about the future times and gives them his parting teachings and encouragements. He never sugarcoats their impending trials, but he does let them know that he won't be victorious in the future...he is already victorious!

### Discussion Questions:

1. Many thousands of people probably saw Jesus come over the Mount of Olives as he made his Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Why might they have thought Jesus could be the Messiah?
  2. Why didn't the Jewish officials just kill Jesus as they wanted to do?
  3. When Jesus asked the Pharisees to show him a denarius, what did he trick them into doing?
  4. What are some things that you can learn from Jesus' discussion of the resurrection in Luke 20?
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1. People were reciting Psalms about him, he was riding a donkey (the sign of royalty), people were celebrating as if he was the Messiah. 2. They did not have authority from the Romans to do so, they were afraid of the opinion of the people. 3. Proving that they owned Roman money with a graven image on it. The fact that they owned a Roman coin betrayed their hypocrisy. 4. There will be a resurrection, those who are resurrected won't die or get married.

### Application Questions:

1. The Jewish leaders thought the Temple was a sign of God's favor toward them. Do you have anything in your life that you think makes you special?
2. In the Parable of the Tenants, Jesus showed that many people try to take advantage of God's goodness and mercy. Can you name a time when you took advantage of someone? Or when you tried to take advantage of God?
3. In the story of the widow's offering, Jesus is clear that God values money differently than most people. What do you have that you can offer to God that is valuable to you, but is not money? Are you willing to happily give that to God?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. Have you ever felt left out the way Andrew probably felt? He was an apostle of Jesus, but his three best friends were obviously more special than him, especially his brother, Peter. Do you suppose Jesus ever talked to Andrew about his situation? If you ever feel left out, do you concentrate on what you don't have, or what you do have?
2. The Pharisees very much valued the Temple and their rituals, but Jesus knew those things would soon go away. What do you value that may not have much value in the future?
3. Almost everyone wants to be better looking and more popular, not matter how old they are. Why is putting too much value on good looks or popularity a dangerous thing to do?

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 14

**Narrator:** Judas

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 14

**Story Summary:** Teachings of Jesus

**Location:** Galilee and Judea

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 14:11, 14:26-27, 29-30

Jesus chose Judas to be an apostle. Apparently, Judas was taught the same things as the other apostles and had the same types of experiences. It seems likely that Jesus loved Judas and valued him as much as any of the other apostles, at least until near the end.

Luke never met Judas. What Luke knew of Judas likely came from the testimony of the other apostles and from the stories he heard. We don't read much about Judas before his betrayal of Jesus. It's easy to suppose the Gospel writers so detested his betrayal that they were not interested in saying anything nice about him, but they also say very little about half of the apostles, so it may be that Judas was just like those apostles.

We are not told in the Bible when Judas started drifting away from Jesus. Perhaps he expected Jesus to overthrow Rome to establish an earthly kingdom and was disappointed when Jesus made it clear his kingdom was spiritual. Or perhaps it happened when Jesus called for his disciples to be fully committed and Judas realized he did not want that. Or perhaps it was some difficult teaching of Jesus or a time Judas was embarrassed by Jesus' words or actions. We don't know why or when, but we do know that the actions of Judas helped result in the death of Jesus.

Luke 14:15 references a feast in the kingdom of God. Since Jesus launches into one of his parables in reply, it is easy to overlook or misunderstand the reference. The statement was made after Jesus mentions the resurrection of the righteous. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the righteous, but they perceived they were the only righteous ones. Jesus' parable not only discounts their likelihood of attendance, but also opens up the resurrection door for all the people the Pharisees had rejected—the Gentiles, the poor, and the physically disabled and disfigured.

Luke 14:25 says that large crowds were with Jesus when he told them about the high cost of following him. Surely that kind of talk must have discouraged several in the crowd. John 6:66 records a time when Jesus clarified how hard it was going to be to follow him, and many of his disciples turned away and left for good. Unlike many modern leaders, Jesus did not make it easy or cheap to be his disciple; he was interested in having only dedicated followers who were willing to count the cost, and to pay it.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Imagine Judas as a faithful follower of Jesus in the early days. Think of a Bible story and place Judas in it as a friend of Jesus. For instance, imagine Judas rowing the boat across the water in the storm, and vying with Peter to walk to Jesus.
2. Jesus once said that whoever was not with him was against him,<sup>1</sup> but he also said that whoever is not against him is for him.<sup>2</sup> What is the difference in those statements?
3. How do you think the Pharisees reacted to being told they were not righteous and would not receive the rewards of the righteous?

### Application Questions

1. Have you ever had a time when you betrayed Jesus?
2. How can you tell if you are fully committed to Jesus as his disciple? Can you think of one thing you could do to become more committed?
3. Have you ever committed to do something for God, but not fulfilled that commitment? What kept you from doing so?
4. What are some of the costs of being a disciple of Jesus?

### Application Questions for Teens

1. Judas betrayed Jesus for money. Have you ever traded some measure of your integrity for earthly gain? What would you do if the opportunity was presented to you in the future?
2. What practical commitments do you maintain when it comes to following Jesus? How can you meet those commitments? How can you add to them?
3. Do you have any areas of your life that you approach with the certainty of the Pharisee? How can you work to have God expand your vision of those areas?

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 12:30

<sup>2</sup> Mark 9:40



**Episode:** Three Gospels Series No. 09

**Narrator:** Philip the Apostle

**Primary Scriptures:** John 13-17

**Story Summary:** The last Passover meal of Jesus and walk to the Kidron Valley

**Location:** Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** John 13:16, 34; 14:1-3, 6-7, 13-16, 23; 15:1-8, 15; 17:3-4

What would you do if you had only twenty-four hours left to live? Spend it with your family, go skydiving, ask forgiveness of any you have offended, go to work? Jesus chose to eat Passover dinner with his twelve closest friends. The first few of his last hours consisted of eating the ritualistic Passover feast and giving his final instructions and farewell message.

According to *John*, the evening started with Jesus ritualistically washing the feet of his apostles, a task normally reserved for household slaves or servants. This act signified that the apostles were to be servants as they acted as the messengers of the Gospel.

Following this act of humility, Jesus prophesied several things, including: Judas would betray him, Peter would deny him three times, Jesus would go to be with the Father, and Jesus would send back the Holy Spirit.

John 14-17 comprise some of the most detailed and mysterious of all of Jesus' teachings. Even though the apostles had gone through three years of intense training, these teachings stretched them to the maximum. Starting in John 14:9, Jesus talks about "being in," "remaining in," or "abiding in," as per John 14:9, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." That terminology permeates much of the teaching. In fact, Jesus said in John 15:6, "He that abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. Without me, he can do nothing."

There are few times when Jesus expressly commands something, but he does so in this farewell talk. In John 15:12, Jesus commands the apostles to love one another, just as he has loved them. He follows that up by telling them that they are his friends if they do whatever he commands them to do.

In John 16, Jesus gives the apostles fair warning and encouraging words about what will happen to them after he is gone. He ends that section with a very encouraging statement: "I have overcome the world." Note that he did not say he "would" overcome the world, but that he already had.

John 17 is a long prayer for his followers. John 17:3-4 are two of the most informative verses in the Bible. They provide a definition for eternal life, and they provide a good summation statement of Jesus' work and purpose on earth.

### Discussion Questions:

1. According to John 14:6, how many ways are there to come to the Father? What does that verse mean?
  2. In John 14:6, Jesus tells the apostles they can ask Jesus for anything in his name, and he will do it. Does that apply to every Christian or just the apostles?
  3. Based on John 15:8, how do you bring glory to God? What is much fruit?
  4. According to John 17:3, what is eternal life? So, when does eternal life start?
  5. How did Jesus bring glory to God, according to John 17:4?
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1. The only way is through Jesus. 2. The Bible does not say. 3. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ. So, eternal life starts when someone knows God and Jesus. 4. By finishing the work God gave him to do.

### Application Questions:

1. In your life, what would it mean for you to wash someone's feet? Are you willing to do that? Who for?
2. It is currently popular for people to say that all religions have equal value and that there are many ways to God. Does John 14:6 impact how you view that view?
3. John 14:15-17 talks about the Holy Spirit. In light of those verses, what can you learn about the Holy Spirit? What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to live inside of you? In John 14:20, what does it mean for Jesus to live inside of you?
4. John 14:23 says that anyone who loves Jesus will obey his teaching? Based on that verse how would you evaluate your love for Jesus? How do you know what his teachings are?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. If you are a Christian, do you deserve to lead a trouble-free life? What type of life does Jesus promise in John 16:33?
2. What does eternal life mean to you? Does that fit with John 17:3?
3. John 17:4 is a one-sentence summary of how Jesus evaluated his life. How would you evaluate your life in one sentence? Are you satisfied with what that sentence describes? Are you doing what it takes to lay the groundwork to change that sentence to what you want it to be someday?
4. When did God the Father start loving Jesus? (John 17:24) Did he start loving you at the same time?
5. John 13-17 reveals what Jesus did with his final few hours before he died. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, what would you be concerned with?

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 19

**Narrator:** Peter and Pilate

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 22, 23

**Story Summary:** Betrayal of Jesus, trials of Jesus, death of Jesus

**Location:** Jerusalem

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 22:3, 22:19-20, 22:32, 22:40, 22:46, 23:34, 23:47, 23:49

Luke writes about the Last Supper, as well as Jesus' arrest, trial crucifixion, death, and burial in only two chapters. He writes about those events in rather terse language and doesn't provide many details; you can read the two chapters in less than ten minutes. You will have to read the accounts in the other Gospels to get a much fuller description of what happened in those twenty-four hours.

Without giving exact chronological timing, Luke issues a forewarning of Jesus' death by telling of Judas' agreement to betray Jesus to the Jewish leaders. Luke does not make it clear whether the betrayal happened because Satan entered into Judas or because of the payment of money, or both.

Luke only briefly describes the Last Supper and some of Jesus' conversations. You have to read the account in *John* to have an appreciation of the momentous events that happened at that time.

Peter was likely one of Luke's information sources for what happened the night of Jesus' arrest. Perhaps that is why Luke includes Jesus' prophecy about Peter's denial of Jesus and the later fulfillment of that prophecy. However, Luke does not identify Peter as the one who cut off Malchus' ear, as John did.<sup>1</sup>

Throughout history, Pilate has been either vilified or exonerated of his actions that resulted in the crucifixion of Jesus. He was no doubt a violent man, but was he evil or just doing his job as a Roman official? The Jewish leaders knew they could possibly end Pilate's career by causing a big enough riot, so his desire both to keep his position and to do a good job were sufficient to cause him to end the life of Jesus.

It is tempting to think of the crucifixion of Jesus as a special event. In fact, crucifixion was a common capital punishment of the Romans, Persians, Carthaginians, and other cultures, often used to punish political or religious agitators, pirates and slaves. As an example, in the aftermath of the slave rebellion led by Spartacus, about 11,000 rebelling slaves were crucified by the Roman Generals Crassus and Pompey.

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<sup>1</sup> John 18:10

### Discussion Questions:

1. It appears that Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him, and even suspected when it would occur. Why do you think Jesus did not avoid his arrest? Why do you think God did not send angels to rescue Jesus?
  2. Jesus told Peter that he would deny him. How do you think that made Peter feel? What kinds of things do you do that might open you to the accusation that you deny Jesus?
  3. Why was Pilate in Jerusalem the day of Jesus' trial?
  4. Why did Pilate send Jesus to his death even though he knew Jesus did not deserve it?
  5. Why was Jesus crucified instead of killed a different way?
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1. Don't overtly identify myself as a Christian, allow people to say bad things about Jesus without objecting to it. 3. It was Passover and Pilate knew there was the chance of unrest in the city when there were so many people there. 4. Pilate's first objective was to keep peace because his job depended on doing that. 5. Crucifixion was a normal way to punish religious or political agitators.

### Application Questions:

1. If you knew you only had 24 hours to live, what would you do? What would you tell your family members?
2. In what ways can you deny Jesus? How can you take measures to keep you from doing so?
3. Have you ever done something at work that was against your personal ethics? Do you remember why you made the choice to do so? Would you act differently now?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. One reason Judas betrayed Jesus was to receive money. What are some reasons that might cause you to betray a friend or relative?
2. Peter was sure he would not deny Jesus under any circumstance, yet the question of a mere servant girl caused him to angrily deny Jesus. Have you ever gotten scared far out of proportion to the actual danger?
3. The guards mocking Jesus did so without fear because they were in power and they were harming a powerless person. How can you keep from doing the same sort of thing to powerless people?

**Episode:** Three Gospels Series No. 10

**Narrator:** Joseph of Arimathea

**Primary Scriptures:** Matthew 21-27, Mark 11-15, John 18-19

**Story Summary:** The last week of the life of Jesus

**Location:** Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Matthew 21:22; 22:21, 29, 37-40; 24:14, 35, 44; 25:23, 35-36, 40; 26:41. Mark 12:24, 43-44; 14:36. John 18:36-37; 19:38

All four Gospels record events from the last week of Jesus' life. Reading about this time period in a parallel Gospel account is very helpful, mindful that each writer has his own information sources and goals, and the Holy Spirit inspired them. Matthew and John were eyewitnesses of this time period, while Mark got his information from other sources, with Peter probably being his primary resource.

During his last week, Jesus generally entered Jerusalem in the morning, taught the people and jostled with the authorities during the day, and then retired from Jerusalem in the evening to the Mount of Olives.

Although the order of events is not perfectly clear, it is likely that Jesus' last week begins with his triumphal entry, an event recorded in all four Gospels. Possibly the next events are the cursing of the fig tree, and the cleansing of the Temple when Jesus challenged the moneychangers.

Another well-recorded event is known among scholars as the Olivet Discourse, when Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives and gave a long discourse about the future events, especially the future of Jerusalem. Matthew 24-25 is the most detailed of the recordings. Jesus tells at least five parables, and ends with the well-known story of the separation of the sheep and goats when the Son of Man comes.

All four Gospels portray the Last Supper, but John 13-17 provides the most details of the evening. At the end of the Last Supper, Jesus leads the apostles to Garden of Gethsemane, located on the western slope of the Mount of Olives. Jesus prays in the garden and prepares his apostles for the end, then Judas and a contingent of up to two hundred men arrive to arrest Jesus and take him back to Jerusalem for trial.

Although the order is not absolutely certain, events probably transpired as follows: the trial before Annas, the trial before Caiaphas while Peter denies Jesus in the courtyard, the trial before the Sanhedrin, the first trial before Pilate, the trial before Herod Antipas, the second trial before Pilate, the approximately six hours of crucifixion, and the burial of Jesus.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Describe what the people in the Kidron Valley would have seen of Jesus' Triumphal Entry.
  2. Why would Jesus have been angry at the moneychangers?
  3. What did Jesus mean when he told his opponents to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's?
  4. What do you think Matthew 24:14 means?
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1. It was Passover week, so there were many thousands of people camping out in the Kidron Valley. News of the resurrected Lazarus had surely circulated among the crowd, and the rumor of Jesus' arrival had spread. When Jesus came over the crest of the hill on a donkey, they would have seen him as the king prophesied in Zechariah 9:9. The crowd throughout the valley would have reacted in a joyful frenzy. 2. The moneychangers were profaning the Temple of God by making a big profit on the changing of the money of the helpless people arriving to sacrifice at the Temple. Perhaps Jesus remembered that they had taken advantage of his own poor parents. 3. The fact that his opponents were in possession of a "profane" coin proved their hypocrisy. Jesus only had to point out how they were trying to use religious rules that were meant to make them pure to help them avoid paying taxes.

### Application Questions:

1. The moneychangers profaned the Temple by their actions. Are there things you can do to profane the place where you worship? If your actions endanger the reputation of your church, do you profane God's house?
2. The Pharisees had a tendency to use their religious rules to help them avoid doing things they did not want to do. How could you use your faith in a hypocritical way?
3. Matthew 24:24 says that people will be deceived by great signs and miracles. How can you keep from being deceived by false teachers?
4. How can you use Matthew 24:44 to avoid being misled?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. Matthew 25:21 has the phrase, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Many adults say that this phrase is what they want to hear when they arrive in Heaven. Is this what you want to hear? If so, what are you doing to receive that blessing? If not, what would you like to hear?
2. Why did Judas betray Jesus? Why did he do it for so little money? Have you ever betrayed Jesus to avoid criticism or embarrassment?
3. The custom of washing people's feet is not often used in the modern world. What is a modern equivalent that you could do to demonstrate humility?

**Episode:** Three Gospels Series No. 11

**Narrator:** Mary Magdalene

**Primary Scriptures:** Matthew 28, Mark 16, John 20

**Story Summary:** Jesus comes back to life after being dead; a week following

**Location:** Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Mark 16:6. John 20:18, 20, 29-30

This episode covers approximately the week after Jesus was raised from the dead. When reading the relevant passages from the four Gospels, the exact order of events is a little unclear. One possible ordering of events is: the tomb is visited by women, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is found empty by the women, the tomb is found empty by Peter and John, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, Jesus appears to other women, report of the soldiers, Jesus appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who report to the apostles, Jesus appears to the ten apostles, and Jesus appears to Thomas and the rest of the apostles.

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Jesus on Friday afternoon. They did not have time nor expertise to bury the body properly. Perhaps it was the job of the women to prepare a dead body. In any event, the women were not involved and went home to prepare spices and perfumes. They rested on Saturday in accordance with the Law of Moses.

At first opportunity, dawn on Monday, Mary Magdalene and other women took spices and perfumes to anoint the body of Jesus. They arrived either as the angels were rolling away the stone in front of the tomb or just after they had done so. When the women looked into the tomb, they found it empty. While they were in a stupor, the angel(s) told them Jesus had come back to life, just as he said he would.

The women ran to tell the eleven apostles, who were in disbelief. However, Peter and John ran to the tomb and also found it empty. When Peter saw the headcloth was folded by itself, he ascertained that things were askew, but was not convinced Jesus had risen from the dead.

At some point, Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb and Jesus appeared to her. He instructed her to tell the apostles to meet him in Galilee. Jesus also appeared to the other women.

That same day, Jesus appeared to two of his disciples walking on the road to Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They could not recognize him in his resurrected body, but he eventually revealed himself. Importantly, he explained how the scriptures in the Old Testament testified about him. The two returned to Jerusalem and told the apostles.

Jesus appeared to ten of the apostles without Thomas, and later appeared to all eleven of them. So Jesus rose from the dead as he foretold. How would that change things?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who was the first person to find that the tomb of Jesus was empty?
  2. Was the man in white or the two men in gleaming clothes at Jesus' tomb angels?
  3. How would people know that the rumor spread by the soldiers that the disciples of Jesus stole his body was false? (Matthew 27:62-66, 28:11-15)
  4. Why did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus not recognize Jesus?
  5. How did John choose to record what he did instead of other things about the life of Jesus?
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1. Depending on the account, it was either: Mary Magdalene, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, or several women. 2. According to Matthew 28:5, yes. 3. If the soldiers were Roman, they would have been executed for letting someone steal the body while they were asleep. If they were Temple guards, they would have surely been discharged. In either case, they would not have talked about such a humiliating event. 4. They were kept from recognizing him. 5. John 20:31 So that his readers may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

### Application Questions:

1. John 20:31 says that John wrote about the things he did so his readers may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they may have life in his name. Did John convince you that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If not, is there anything else he could have said that would convince you?
2. You probably don't have the personal experience of watching someone come back from the dead. Do you find the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection convincing? What did Jesus tell Thomas about this? (John 20:29)
3. What did Mary Magdalene do to receive the blessing of being the first to see the resurrected Jesus? (had been faithful a long time, continued to act in faith even when all seemed lost) Have you ever been faithful to Jesus when all hope seemed lost? What characteristics will aid you in keeping your faith through hard times?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. When they arrived at the tomb, Peter and John saw it was empty, but did not consider Jesus resurrected because they did not understand how the Old Testament Scriptures had said he would. Are there things in your life you cannot understand because of limitations in your scriptural understanding?
2. It is scientifically impossible for someone to come back from the dead in the manner Jesus reputedly did. Does that keep you from believing Jesus actually did so?