

The Harmony of the Holy “Week” Accounts

The Challenges to Jesus’ Authority:

Mt 21:23 - 22:46 vs. Mk 11:27 - 12:37 vs. Lk 20:1-44

Study by Jason Labonte

I. Chronology: Two Views (of a Very Many):

A. A More-Traditional View

1. Friday, 8th of Nisan¹ — Jesus arrives in Bethany from Jericho²
2. Saturday, 9th of Nisan — A normal sabbath³
3. Palm Sunday, 10th of Nisan — Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey⁴
4. Monday, 11th of Nisan — Jesus curses a fig tree and clears the temple
5. Tuesday, 12th of Nisan — The fig tree is found withered; **Jesus teaches in the temple**; a woman anoints Jesus
6. Wednesday, 13th of Nisan — Nothing is known.
7. Maunday Thursday, 14th of Nisan, Passover — Jesus eats the Passover meal, his last supper with his disciples.
8. Good Friday, 15th of Nisan — Jesus the Christ is crucified for the sins of the world
9. Black Saturday, 16th of Nisan — A normal sabbath
10. Easter Sunday, 17th of Nisan — Jesus the Christ is raised from dead! Hallelujah!

¹ also called Abib

² Some believe this trip was on Saturday, but they forget that Jesus would not have travelled on a sabbath day.

³ This view assumes that when John writes, “the next day” that he really means, “the next non-sabbath day”.

⁴ Some believe the triumphal entry was on Monday, falling on a 10th that year, such that he died on Passover instead of the day after.

B. An Alternate View

1. Friday, 8th of Nisan — Jesus arrives in Bethany from Jericho; a woman anoints Jesus
2. Saturday, 9th of Nisan — A normal sabbath, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey (It may have been a sabbath day's journey⁵. It was also late⁶, so the sabbath may have been over.)
3. Sunday, 10th of Nisan — Jesus curses a fig tree and clears the temple
4. Monday, 11th of Nisan — The fig tree is found withered; **Jesus teaches in the temple**
5. Tuesday, 12th of Nisan — Nothing is known
6. Wednesday, 13th of Nisan — Jesus eats the Passover meal, his last supper with his disciples.
7. Thursday, 14th of Nisan, Passover — Jesus the Christ is crucified for the sins of the world
8. Friday, 15th of Nisan, 1st Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread — A high sabbath
9. Saturday, 16th of Nisan — A normal sabbath
10. Sunday, 17th of Nisan, The Feast of First Fruits — Jesus the Christ is raised from dead! Hallelujah!

II. Discussion

Read through all of the passages and discuss the questions below.

- A. What is the meaning of the Parable of the Two Sons?**
- B. What is the meaning of the Parable of the Landowner and the Vineyard?**
- C. What is the meaning of the Parable of the Marriage Feast? How was it fair to cast out a man who probably could not have afforded wedding clothes?**
- D. In what ways were the sins of the Pharisees and Sadducees different? In what ways were they the same? How can we avoid these two extremes?**
- E. Mark records a longer conversation with the scribe/expert in the law. Jesus said he was not far from the kingdom of God. What did he lack?**
- F. Read Psalm 110 and discuss Jesus' interpretation of it.**
- G. What can we learn about how Jesus responds to questioning? How should we respond when we are questioned?**

⁵ Acts 1:12

⁶ according to Mark