



# ROSE GUIDE TO THE GOSPELS

Side-by-Side Charts and Overviews



## JESUS' FINAL WEEK

Curiously, in Luke 9:51, we read that Jesus “resolutely set out for Jerusalem” even though he kept saying that Jerusalem was where the religious establishment would kill him (Mark 8:31)! Luke 9:51–19:27 records that slow, deliberate journey. It involved much more teaching and many more signs as well.

Starting with Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, all four gospels focus extensively on Jesus’ final week—a third of Matthew; a third of Mark; a fourth of Luke; nearly half of John!

Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what has come to be known as Palm Sunday raised the crowd’s messianic hopes yet again. He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9:

“See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey.” With palm branches in hand, people lined the road shouting *hosanna*, which means “salvation at last!” Surely this is the moment, many assumed. But then, people noticed Jesus was weeping, not waving a sword (Luke 19:41–44)—hardly the behavior of a conquering king.

“The Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Matt. 20:18–19

Jerusalem





What followed this event was a strange, turbulent week. On Monday, Jesus moved through the temple courts angrily turning over the tables of corrupt moneychangers and merchants. This disruptive act prompted fierce arguments the following day with the Jewish religious leaders in the temple courts. On Thursday night, Jesus gathered with his closest followers in an upstairs room to eat the Passover meal one final time with them. He used the occasion to institute a new meal—the Lord’s Supper—commemorating his imminent arrest and death. Such grim talk signaled to all that the fulfillment of his messianic kingdom was yet future (Matt. 26:29; Luke 22:30).



Jesus Casting Out the Money Changers at the Temple by Carl Bloch

Sure enough, before the gathering concluded, one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, slipped out of the room in order to carry out his plan to betray Jesus. Judas had accepted thirty pieces of silver from the chief priests in exchange for handing Jesus over to the authorities (Matt. 26:14–15).

Just after that last supper with his disciples, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James, and John to pray. The Gospels explain that Jesus was visibly in deep anguish as he contemplated the horrific death he would soon face. While his closest disciples slept, Jesus wrestled in prayer—alone, prostrate, drenched in a bloody sweat. Through prayer, he was given strength to carry out the Father’s plan: “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Strengthened with holy resolve, he rose, just in time to meet Judas and the mob that had come to arrest him.

In the wee hours of Thursday night and Friday morning, the Jewish and Roman authorities sent Jesus to illegal nighttime trials. Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman prefect of Judea, sentenced Jesus to death. Jesus was



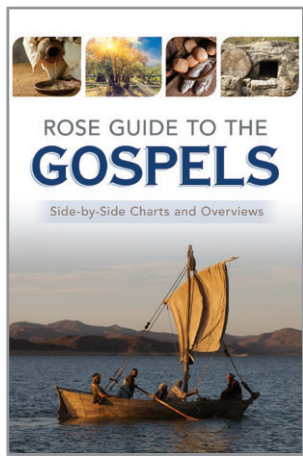
stripped and flogged mercilessly by Roman soldiers skilled in the brutal business of execution. The men took turns punching him, spitting on him, and mocking him with a purple robe and a crown of thorns (Mark 14:65; John 19:1–3). Then they led him to Golgotha—an infamous execution site, along a major thoroughfare outside the city walls—where they hammered him to a cross. Between two convicted criminals, Jesus died a gruesome, agonizing death. Yet even then, while on the cross, Jesus prayed for his executioners: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

Shortly before the beginning of the Sabbath day, which started at sunset on Friday, the Roman soldiers overseeing the crucifixion realized that Jesus was already dead. (Death by crucifixion could sometimes take days.) The soldiers removed his lifeless body from the cross and, on the orders of Pilate, released it to Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin who had come to believe in Jesus (Matt. 27:57; John 19:38). Joseph wrapped Christ’s body in “a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock” (Matt. 27:59–60). Joseph—with the help of Nicodemus and probably others too—rolled a big stone over the mouth of the tomb. The following day, Pilate, at the request of the Jewish leaders, sent soldiers to put an official Roman seal on the tomb and stand guard there, lest followers of Jesus “come and steal the body” and tell everyone that Jesus had risen from the dead (Matt. 27:64).

JESUS' FINAL DAYS				
EVENT	MATT.	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.	26:1-5, 14-16	14:1-2, 10-11	22:1-6	
<b>Thursday</b>				
Jesus washes the disciples' feet.				13:1-17
Jesus shares the Last Supper with his disciples.	26:17-30	14:12-26	22:7-30	13:18-30
Jesus predicts Peter's denials.	26:31-35	14:27-31	22:31-38	13:31-38
Teachings about vine/branches, Holy Spirit, and the world.				14:1- 16:33
Jesus prays for believers.				17:1-26
Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane.	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
<b>Friday</b>				
Judas betrays Jesus, and Jesus is arrested (after midnight).	26:47-56	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus stands trial before Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin.	26:57-68	14:53-65	22:54	18:13-14, 19-24
Peter disowns Jesus three times, then weeps bitterly.	26:69-75	14:66-72	22:54-62	18:15-18, 25-27
Sanhedrin condemns Jesus (at daybreak).	27:1-2	15:1	22:63-71	
Judas hangs himself.	27:3-10			
Jesus stands trial before Pilate, then Herod Antipas, then back to Pilate who sentences Jesus.	27:11-26	15:2-15	23:1-25	18:28- 19:16

The gospels don't mention Wednesday specifically, but Luke 21:37-38 suggests that Jesus probably taught in the temple courts on this day. Judas and the religious leaders may have plotted together on this day.

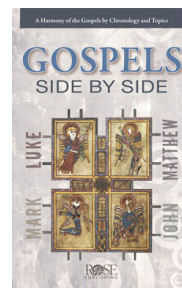
EVENT	MATT.	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Soldiers beat Jesus; put on him a crown of thorns and a robe.	27:27-31	15:16-20		19:1-3
Jesus is taken to Golgotha to be executed.	27:32	15:21	23:26-32	19:17
At Golgotha, Jesus is crucified between two thieves.	27:33-44	15:22-32	23:33-38	19:18-24
One thief believes in Jesus and asks to be remembered.			23:39-43	
Jesus entrusts his mother to John's care.				19:25-27
Jesus dies on the cross.	27:45-56	15:33-41	23:44-49	19:28-37
Joseph of Arimathea places Jesus' body in his own tomb (before sunset).	27:57-61	15:42-47	23:50-56	19:38-42
<b>Saturday</b>				
Roman guard is posted at the tomb.	27:62-66			
<b>Sunday</b>				
Women find the stone rolled away from tomb, Jesus' body gone, and angels there.	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-8	20:1-2
Peter and John run to the empty tomb.			24:9-12	20:3-10



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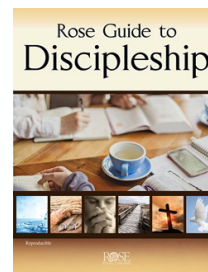
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## Gospels Side by Side

Consult this concise chart to find out where there are four Gospels instead of just one, why three Gospels are similar, but the fourth is very different, how the Gospels complement - not contradict - each other, why most of Christ's story focuses on his last week; and more.

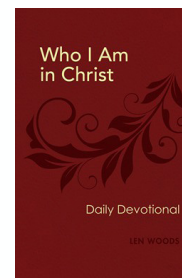
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