

**Friday**, March 30: Read [Mark 15:42-47; Matthew 27:57-66](#)

Jesus is dead. Joseph of Arimathea secures permission from Pilate to bury Jesus' body in his own tomb. Again, Mary Magdalene is singled out as one of the several faithful Galilean women who followed Jesus from the cross to the garden tomb. Matthew records the account of Roman guards being assigned to the grave in order to squelch any attempt of the disciples to steal the body and fabricate a resurrection tale. Sunset Friday marks the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath. Jesus' body is accommodated in the grave and those few brave followers scatter in order not to be found unclean on the passover Sabbath. Neither they, nor the Roman guards suspect all that God is about to accomplish there in just a few short days. Easter, like the rising eastern sun, lies just over the horizon!

Notes:

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Craig and Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (Intervarsity), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA), **William and Salma Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)



## **Spiritual Disciplines**

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
  1. *How does this apply to me?*
  2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
  3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

**Monday**, March 26 Read [Isaiah 53, Psalm 22](#)

We will break with the [40 Chapters That Reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas](#) in order to focus on the passion of Christ during Holy Week. Two old testament prophecies speak volumes of the suffering of Messiah on behalf of the world. Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1 as one of his seven last words from the cross. The word imagery of this Psalm is quite impressive as the Psalmist depicts a crucifixion yet to take place some 1000 years on the future.

Isaiah 53 is commonly called the Suffering Servant Passage. This chapter unveils Jesus growing up, his rejection by Israel, his vicarious suffering and death on our behalf, his resurrection and his final glorification. What a passage! What a savior!

*.Notes:*

**Pray for:** My relationship with God  
My life roles  
My personal needs/weak areas  
My goals and objectives

**Tuesday**, March 27: Read [Mark 14:26-51, Matthew 26:30-56](#).

Both Mark and Matthew record the mental anguish of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. His soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Jesus' only remedy was prayer! He knew what lay ahead; he knew of the betrayer's kiss; he knew of the disciples' retreat and the torture that waited him at the hands of the Romans. So he prayer to his Father for strength and endurance. Then, like a lamb to the slaughter, he remained silent, taking the blame of the world's sins upon himself.

Notes:

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

**Wednesday** March 28: Read [John 18:28-19:15](#)

Truth on trial! Jesus undergoes a series of trials all of which, according to Old Testament law, were illegal. Nonetheless, the religious leaders are determined to convict and execute him before any kind of uprising can occur. And so they push the Roman procurator and the governor to have him convicted of treason and executed. Under oath, Jesus admits his identity and, in their minds, seals his destiny to the cross, just as God had determined it should be from before the beginning of time.

Notes:

**Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

- Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Pray for this coming Sunday's service.
- Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC. Pray for our various small groups that meet each week.
- Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. As God to help us to incorporate new people into our fellowship.
- Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2018 and beyond.

**Thursday**, March 29: Read [Mark 15:16-41, Matthew 27:27-56](#)

Jesus' ascension up Calvary's hill, and then up upon the cross, fulfills his previous statement from "If I would be lifted up I will draw all men unto me". All four gospels give the sordid account of Jesus' vicarious suffering and death. Each selects details of his words spoken and his interaction with his executioners and the onlookers. Matthew and Mark note the presence of several women along with Jesus' mother at the foot of the cross. Most notable among them is Mary Magdalene, who would be the first witness of his resurrection Easter Sunday morning.

**Notes:**

**Thursday Pray for "My World"**

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at work or out in the community • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.