**“The Hour Has Come”**

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Zechariah 9:9-12

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1—15:47

John 12:12-19

Palm Sunday

John, chapter 12, begins accounting the days: “Six days before the Passover”, then begins the countdown, including the Lord’s commentary on it: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”.

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bridge

Our midweek Lenten series has been a walk through Saint John’s Passion (chapters 18 and 19), but today we go back to the **beginning of those savingly monumental six days**. John especially considers **everything here** **from God’s** **Creation** **to** **redemptive Re-creation upon a cross (His restoration of a Good relationship with people who also want that)**. The in-full-swing beginning of Saint John’s Passion starts not in chapter 18, but rather 12 where he announces the backdrop for it all in the **six days until the Passover**. That was meant to remind all that the Gospel’s Good news pits **Redemption in a same light as Creation’s perfect intent**. God’s **Sabbath “Day (or “hour” to equate the two terms literal but also much the more than that): the Sabbath “Day (or “hour”) of rest”** (God resting satisfied with us and us resting the same with Him which, then upon the “Fall”, required a **Passover in a the safety of sanctuary gathered around a cup of blessing and the meat to consume of the sacrifice’s flesh shared by believers kept safe beneath eternally protected behind a blood covered doorpost**. What resulted from a Creation-concluding **Sabbath of “rest”** had to **become** (in the “Fall”) a **“Passover” from death made possible by God’s RE-CREATIVE mercy offered at the COST OF IT in what we remember as happening through the days in history of this week**.

**Text**

“The **HOUR HAD COME** for the Son of Man to **be glorified**”, and it’s hard to see the run-up events as “**glorification**” except from **hindsight knowledge and faith**. “Glorification” (for us in Christ) is, though, noticing the **beauty of it (what we call Gospel)**. As we read that long account in Mark, it wasn’t, though, obvious that it’s **Gospel** for an unknowing ear … yet we know that **it is (Jesus, Himself, said so)**. I remember the misunderstanding of that, in that after Mel Gibson’s “Passion of the Christ” movie came out we received at our house a postcard (I remember) from even a church saying of it: “look what a horrible thing it was that happened to such a good man” … and, with that, the **Gospel** got missed, calling it **only tragedy**.

But, yes, violent **torture** it was and a **looming death within days: that** was Jesus’ week. He was anointed for burial at the beginning of that week and **told everyone exactly THAT** as Martha’s sister Mary used expensive “ointment” on Him while He reclined at table and some complained about the wasted value. “Leave her alone” He said, for she was preparing Him for a “burial” by the week’s end. Jesus had been (and was now six days from it) as I’d seen movies describe inmates on “death row”, a “dead Man walking”.

He entered the city (Jerusalem, where His execution would take place) riding on the colt of a donkey as that was foretold that He’d do. And He said, there, what that week was: **“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. For this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name in this. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.”**

**Application**

You know, we tick off our “**hours**” **in time** certainly, but more in **events**. We work according to a **schedule**, meetings are fixed in start times, but they’re mostly remembered as just **meetings**. School days are **days** and **class times**, yet they are remembered for **what’s learned** or **what happened in the classroom**. Holidays are set aside in **dates**, yet the **event made of them** is what stays with us. Vacations and trips, I can’t remember the calendar dates, but I have cherished the **times** and the **activities** … and the **people I was with** and the **things I saw and did**.

“While we were weak … **at the right time**” (Scripture says), “**Christ died for the ungodly**. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but **God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners** … and that, **at the right time / “while”** **… Christ died for us**. Since, therefore, we have now been **justified by His blood**, much more shall we be **saved by Him from the wrath of God**. For if **while** **we**” **(humanity / us)** “were enemies we were reconciled to God by the” (remembered this week) “**death of His Son**, much more, now that we **are reconciled**, shall we be **saved by His life” (which we’ll get to next weekend)**. “More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom” (**because of His fate remembered in this holiest of weeks of memorial**) “we have **NOW**” (**even in the “hour” of our hearing about it**) “**received reconciliation**”. ….

Among your “**hours**” of this coming week, consider and meditate upon **the degree to which God loved and loves you**. Every minute of Jesus’ week (remembered by this one), He thought of **YOU** to **sustain Him through the “hour” that came toward the end of it**. While He stood before courts that seemed to hold His fate in their hands, He kept silent, just **thinking of YOU and the saving of YOU by what He was doing**. When they hammered nails through His wrist and feet and then lifted the cross and drop it into a hole to keep it upright to dangle like that consuming effort to just breathe for what was too many hours of a day, **YOU** **were on His mind** …

… which was **the Father’s glory and His to do**. It was what He will always consider **THE** **place of Gospel Good News (upon His throne in one amazing sense)**.

For us living because of His death (joined to it baptismally) we **celebrate reverently** **all the “hours” of this coming week**. We **rejoice** **most fully (and with the most ecstatic joy)** next weekend **because (and enhanced because)** we’ve (in some small-exercised manner) **joined Him (that is Jesus, our Savior) in at least some of the walk of His Passion week to save us**.

There is a reason why Friday is **Good**. Our eternal got secured in the exhale of the last breath of our Jesus Christ, God’s the Father’s Son. It **IS +His name that we honor**. Amen.