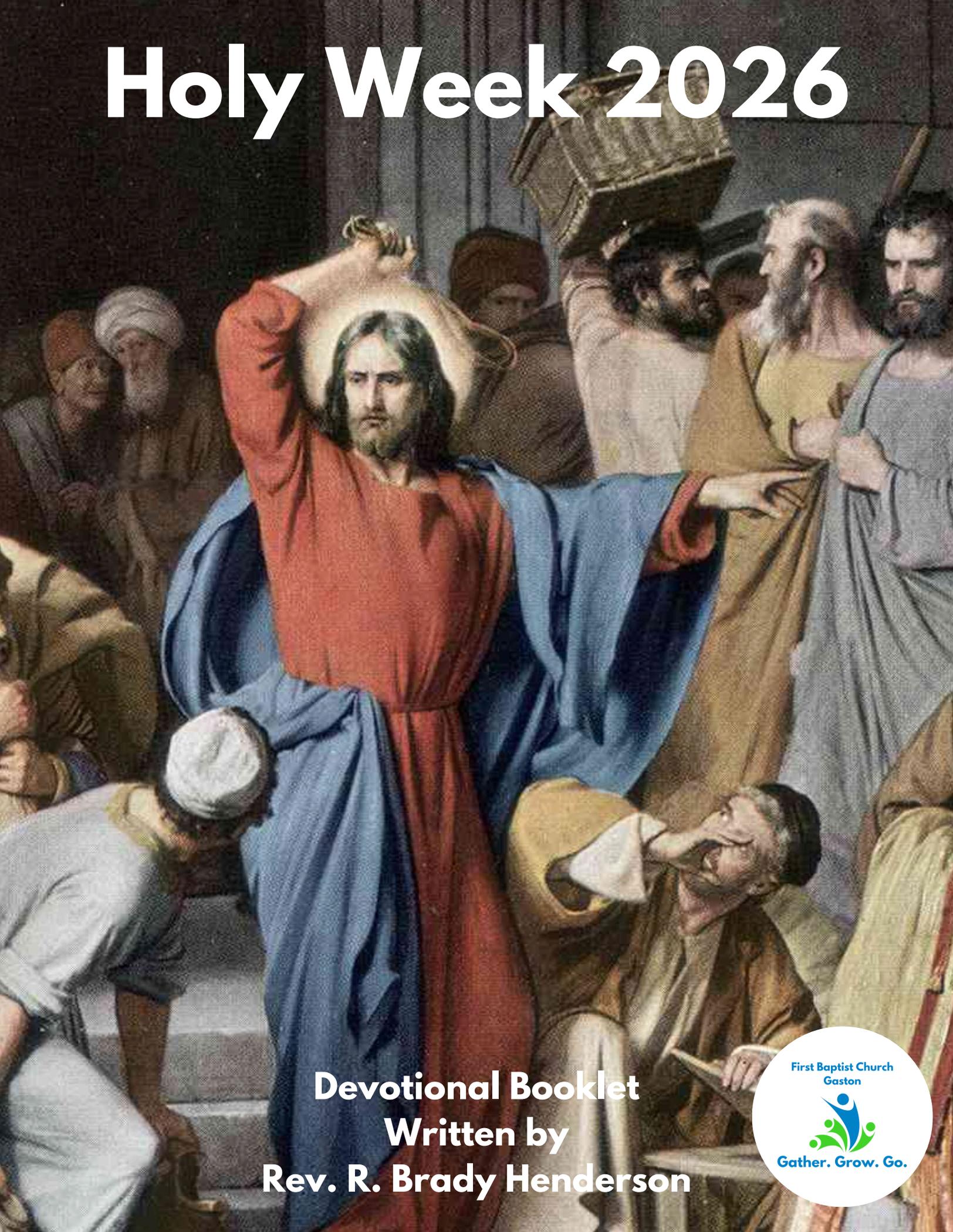


# Holy Week 2026



**Devotional Booklet**  
**Written by**  
**Rev. R. Brady Henderson**



# A Word from the Author

Greetings,

For the believer in Christ Jesus, this week is the most important week of the calendar year. This is the week that we get to celebrate the path Jesus took to the Cross to die for our sins and rise from the grave three days later. I personally believe that we can better understand the meaning and magnitude of Easter Sunday when we ponder the events in Jesus' life each day of Holy Week. And not just Easter week, but all year long!

This is the Third year I've written a daily devotional guide for Holy Week, and the 5th year that I have put together daily reading guides. I encourage you to read the scripture of what happened each day during Holy Week, and then grab this devotional and allow the Lord to speak to your heart. In addition, there will be daily Holy Week videos available on YouTube and Facebook that explain and describe the devotional and daily reading guide. This year, the reading plan will list different Gospel accounts of what happened during each day Holy Week instead of just sticking with one book's plan of events during Holy Week. For the devotional this year, I will mostly stick with Matthew's account.

According to Ephesians 4:11-13, it is my job to equip you for the work of the ministry. I pray that this devotional can do just that as we equip our hearts for what God is going to do Easter Sunday when we gather together!

Here's my goal in writing this year's Holy Week Devotional:

#1: To Stick to the **Biblical Portrait** of events. Sadly, during this time of year, the events of Easter can easily be misconstrued away from what really happened according to the Bible. This devotional will stick to the Bible.

#2: To add **Application** from events that happened over 2,000 years ago, to your personal life and walk with Christ today.

#3: To **Strengthen** your wonder, zeal, and adoration for what Christ did for us by dying on the Cross and all the events that led up to it.

I love you all, and hope you enjoy this devotional this Holy Week!

-Rev. R. Brady Henderson, Senior Pastor of FBC Gaston (SC)

## Holy Week Devotional

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# Holy Week 2026 Reading Guide



**Monday:**

**Matthew 21:12-19, Mark 11:15-18, Luke 19:45-48**

**Tuesday:**

**Matthew 21:23-23:29, Mark 11:27-12:44, Luke 20:1-21:4**

**Wednesday:**

**Matthew 26:3-5, Mark 14:1-11, Luke 22:1-2**

**Thursday:**

**Matthew 26:17-46, Mark 14:12-42, Luke 22:7-46**

**Friday:**

**Matthew 26:47-27:61, Mark 14:43-15:47, Luke 22:47-23:56**

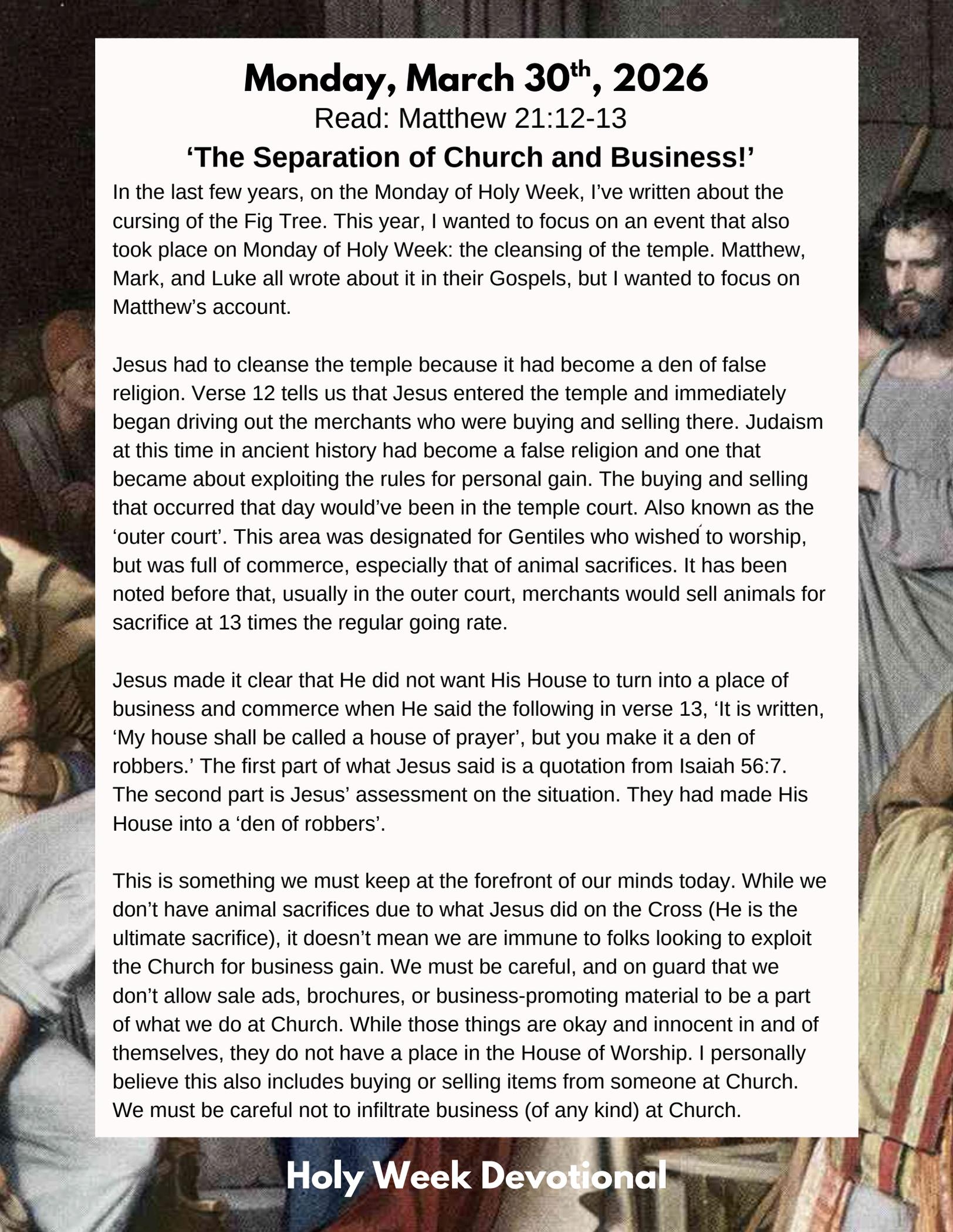
**Saturday:**

**Matthew 27:62-66**

**Sunday:**

**Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16, John 20**

**Holy Week Devotional**



# Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Read: Matthew 21:12-13

## ‘The Separation of Church and Business!’

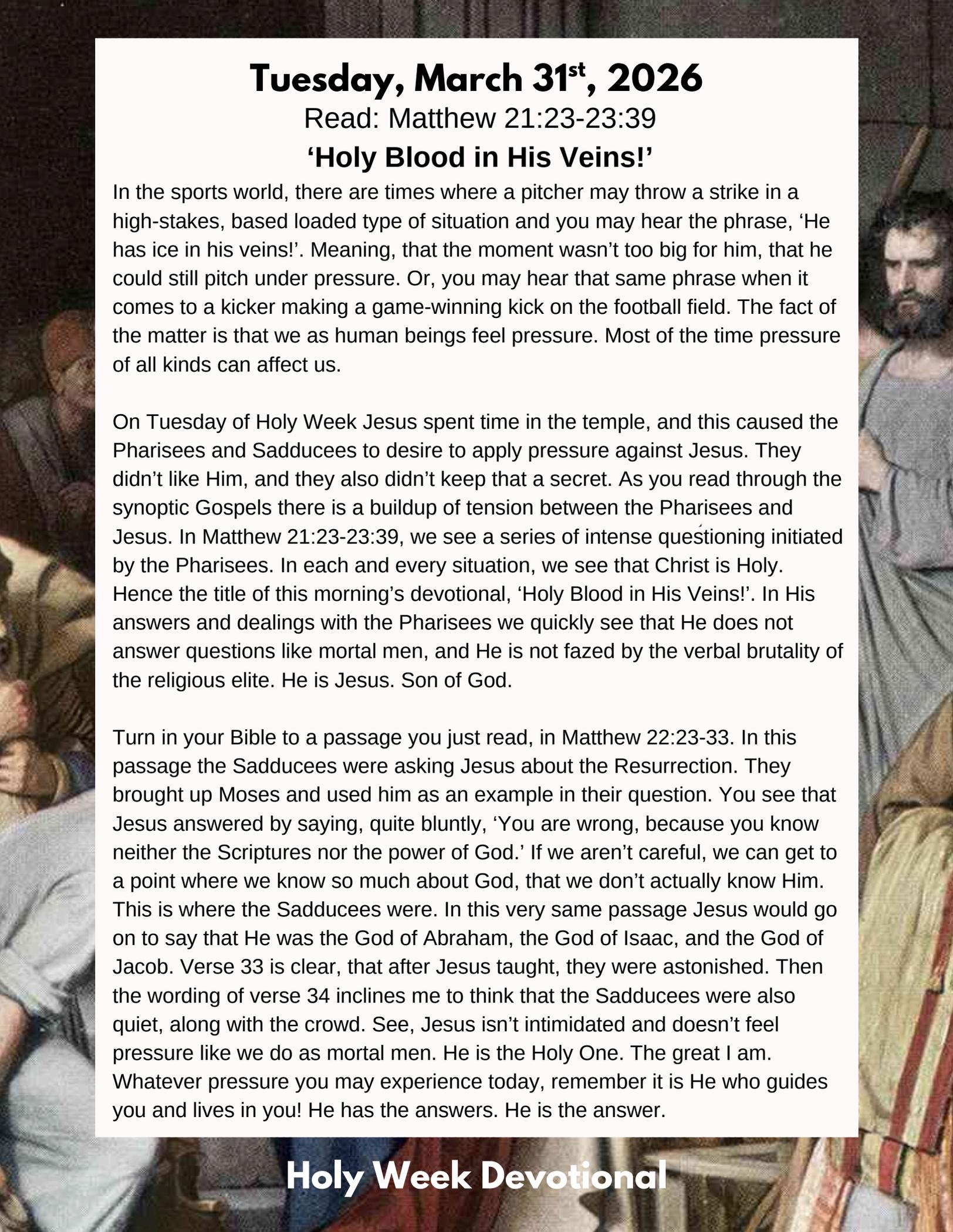
In the last few years, on the Monday of Holy Week, I’ve written about the cursing of the Fig Tree. This year, I wanted to focus on an event that also took place on Monday of Holy Week: the cleansing of the temple. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all wrote about it in their Gospels, but I wanted to focus on Matthew’s account.

Jesus had to cleanse the temple because it had become a den of false religion. Verse 12 tells us that Jesus entered the temple and immediately began driving out the merchants who were buying and selling there. Judaism at this time in ancient history had become a false religion and one that became about exploiting the rules for personal gain. The buying and selling that occurred that day would’ve been in the temple court. Also known as the ‘outer court’. This area was designated for Gentiles who wished to worship, but was full of commerce, especially that of animal sacrifices. It has been noted before that, usually in the outer court, merchants would sell animals for sacrifice at 13 times the regular going rate.

Jesus made it clear that He did not want His House to turn into a place of business and commerce when He said the following in verse 13, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’, but you make it a den of robbers.’ The first part of what Jesus said is a quotation from Isaiah 56:7. The second part is Jesus’ assessment on the situation. They had made His House into a ‘den of robbers’.

This is something we must keep at the forefront of our minds today. While we don’t have animal sacrifices due to what Jesus did on the Cross (He is the ultimate sacrifice), it doesn’t mean we are immune to folks looking to exploit the Church for business gain. We must be careful, and on guard that we don’t allow sale ads, brochures, or business-promoting material to be a part of what we do at Church. While those things are okay and innocent in and of themselves, they do not have a place in the House of Worship. I personally believe this also includes buying or selling items from someone at Church. We must be careful not to infiltrate business (of any kind) at Church.

## Holy Week Devotional



# Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Read: Matthew 21:23-23:39

## 'Holy Blood in His Veins!'

In the sports world, there are times where a pitcher may throw a strike in a high-stakes, based loaded type of situation and you may hear the phrase, 'He has ice in his veins!'. Meaning, that the moment wasn't too big for him, that he could still pitch under pressure. Or, you may hear that same phrase when it comes to a kicker making a game-winning kick on the football field. The fact of the matter is that we as human beings feel pressure. Most of the time pressure of all kinds can affect us.

On Tuesday of Holy Week Jesus spent time in the temple, and this caused the Pharisees and Sadducees to desire to apply pressure against Jesus. They didn't like Him, and they also didn't keep that a secret. As you read through the synoptic Gospels there is a buildup of tension between the Pharisees and Jesus. In Matthew 21:23-23:39, we see a series of intense questioning initiated by the Pharisees. In each and every situation, we see that Christ is Holy. Hence the title of this morning's devotional, 'Holy Blood in His Veins!'. In His answers and dealings with the Pharisees we quickly see that He does not answer questions like mortal men, and He is not fazed by the verbal brutality of the religious elite. He is Jesus. Son of God.

Turn in your Bible to a passage you just read, in Matthew 22:23-33. In this passage the Sadducees were asking Jesus about the Resurrection. They brought up Moses and used him as an example in their question. You see that Jesus answered by saying, quite bluntly, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.' If we aren't careful, we can get to a point where we know so much about God, that we don't actually know Him. This is where the Sadducees were. In this very same passage Jesus would go on to say that He was the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Verse 33 is clear, that after Jesus taught, they were astonished. Then the wording of verse 34 inclines me to think that the Sadducees were also quiet, along with the crowd. See, Jesus isn't intimidated and doesn't feel pressure like we do as mortal men. He is the Holy One. The great I am. Whatever pressure you may experience today, remember it is He who guides you and lives in you! He has the answers. He is the answer.

## Holy Week Devotional

# Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Read: Matthew 26:3-5

## 'Narrow Minded!'

When I get to Wednesday of Holy Week every year in writing these devotionals, I always find that scripturally, there is little that happened on Wednesday. Some scholars make the argument that the events of Luke 21:37-38 could have occurred on Wednesday of Holy Week. And others seem to think that Sanhedrin was busy at work. Plotting their scheme to not only kill but humiliate Jesus who threatened them and their ego's.

Mark 14:1-11 helps us in adding additional details to Matthew's account of the Sanhedrin planning to make their move. The Sanhedrin were not happy that people were following Jesus and His teaching. In their minds, they had to put a stop to this 'rebellion'. As Matthew 26:3 tells us, as the 'head honchos' gathered together at the palace of Caiaphas, the Scriptures tell us what they were doing.

'plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.' Matthew 26:4

Two words really stick out to me in this verse. In the English translations they are: 'plotted' and 'by stealth'. Verse 5 goes on to tell us that they wanted to do this stealthily in order to not create a ruckus with those who were enamored with Jesus who would be in town with the Passover feast.

The word 'plotted' is translated from the Greek word, συνεβουλεύσαντο (synebouleusanto), which in other translations is translated to 'conspired'. This is an interesting word choice by Matthew, as this particular word only occurs 4 times in the NT. It literally means to consult together, advise, and put one's thoughts together in the same place.

The phrase 'by stealth' is translated from the Greek word δόλω (dolō), which means to deceitfully attempt to entrap someone.

Both of these words show me what's going on in the minds of the religious leaders. They are narrow minded. Similarly to Saul in the OT, they can only see one thing. They want to kill Jesus, like Saul wanted to kill David. How is your mind today? Are you narrow minded on Jesus and what He's done for you? Or are you narrowed minded on the things of this world?

# Thursday, April 2nd, 2026

Read: Matthew 26:30

## 'Let's Sing a Hymn!'

Today is Maundy Thursday. The day where we reflect most on the Lord's Supper, or in the case of Jesus on that night, the Last Supper. In the English language we get the word 'maundy' from the Latin word 'mandatum'. Which in Latin, means command. But Maundy in the English language refers to the ceremony of washing feet of those we are poor. When folks think of Maundy Thursday, they most often usually think of Judas denying Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. But for this morning, I want us to focus on a different event that happened the same night.

All Synoptic Gospel writers include the event of Matthew 26:30. Jesus had just washed the feet of his disciples, and they sing a hymn together before they go to the Mount of Olives where Jesus will predict the denials of Peter according to Matthew 26:31-35. Just after Jesus has performed one of the humblest acts seen in the Scriptures, they sing a hymn together. The first question I have, is what hymn did they sing?

Now, we must take off our 21st-century hats. No, they didn't sing Amazing Grace, Come Thou Fount, or At The Cross. Why? The event of Jesus dying for our sins had not yet happened. It would be impossible for those to have been sung at that time. Most scholars believe they probably sang the 'Hallel' from Psalms 113-118. Or even Psalms 136. Either way, Jesus led them in a hymn before He would be brutally betrayed in front of those He loved in the darkest of night. It's not often in devotionals or theological literature that the singing of the hymn on Maundy Thursday is brought up.

But I think it's important. In order to sing a hymn with the words of Psalms 113-118 or 136, one would have to be at peace. While we know that Jesus is going to utter the words of the well-known prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, for now, He must've been at peace enough to be able to sing one last hymn with His Disciples. But in His omniscience, we know that He knew what was coming. He would ask His Father if this cup could pass, which it could not. But the poise, solitude, and peace that Jesus exemplified in moments leading up to the Garden of Gethsemane, should surely be pondered.

# Friday, April 3rd, 2026

Read: Matthew 27:35-44

## **'Ministering to Others Until the End of the Beginning!'**

Today is 'Good Friday'. But why? Well because this is the exact date 8-years ago today that Hannah and I first became 'boyfriend and girlfriend'. While that is amazing and I'm blessed to be married to such an amazing woman, that's not what makes today 'good'. What makes today and everyday good is that Jesus stayed on the Cross to die for our sins. I can't help but think of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21 on Good Friday every year which states: 'For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.'

Why do I keep saying that Jesus stayed on the Cross? Not only did He go to the Cross, but He stayed on the Cross. See, when we understand that love kept Jesus on the Cross we can start to understand the magnitude of His crucifixion. But what I want you to see this morning is that Jesus never stopped loving people until His dying breath. Yes, love kept Jesus on that Cross. Love for me and you! Which reminds us of the truth of John 3:16. Love kept Him there! But while Jesus was on the cross, He also tried to love the two thieves on either side of Him. One who would accept Him, while the other would reject Him. Even when Jesus was experiencing the most physical pain imaginable, He never stopped trying to minister to people.

While Matthew does mention that Jesus was crucified between two robbers in verse 38, Matthew doesn't mention the conversation that ensued. Mark and Luke do discuss it briefly. And what we are told in Luke 23:39-43 is that one criminal 'railed' at Him and the other said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' That statement alone was showing that this criminal had faith in Jesus and believed in Him.

What I want you to see in this entire situation is that while Jesus was laboring for each breath, He still took time to minister to the two on either side of Him. Those two from society that the world would look at it as criminals and thieves, Jesus saw as an opportunity to witness. As Christians, we are called to be ministers! To minister to others. Are you committed to telling people about Christ until your dying breath? Today is 'Good Friday' all because of Jesus!

**Holy Week Devotional**

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rev. Robert 'Brady' Henderson currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Gaston's First Baptist Church in Gaston, South Carolina. He became the Pastor there in 2021 when he was 21 years old. Since then, the Church has been able to see great growth all for God's Glory. Before serving at First Baptist Church of Gaston, Brady served as the Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Williamston, SC (where he was licensed and ordained) as well as the Minister of Connections at His Vineyard Church in Greer, SC. Brady currently serves on Futuring Team for the Lexington Baptist Association as well as Chairman of the Administrative team for the Lexington Baptist Association. Brady is currently serving the South Carolina Baptist Convention as a member on the Committee on Committee's.

Brady was born in Lancaster, SC, as his parents were serving in youth ministry at White Springs Baptist Church in Lancaster. Shortly after this his family moved to Greer, SC, where he grew up. Brady grew up at Fairview Baptist Church in Greer and served with his grandfather, the late Dr. Tom Burns (Worship/Administrative Pastor), for several years before his retirement in 2017.

Brady attended and later graduated from Greer High School in 2018 where he met his high school sweetheart, Hannah McGill. They both graduated from Anderson University together and married in August of 2022. Brady graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing while Hannah graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She is currently the Director of Communications at the Lexington Baptist Association and also works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Women's Missionary Union. The Henderson's reside in Lexington with their beloved dog, 'Beamer' Blake Henderson. Brady is a graduate of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with his Masters of Divinity. In addition to serving at First Baptist, Brady loves history and the Gamecocks! In his free time, you can find him calling football, basketball and baseball games on the radio for Swansea High School Athletics courtesy of the Swansea Tiger Sports Network on YouTube!

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