

## **Introduction:**

### **This week marks the beginning of Holy Week.**

Holy Week is a time when the church sets aside a time to remember Christ's passion, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. Recalling that Holy means set apart, it is a time set apart to remember the great suffering and glory of Jesus Christ.

### **Hearing the Passion Narrative**

What does it do to you when you hear the passion narrative read, what does it do to you? I'll tell you what it does to me; it makes very uncomfortable. To hear the story read again always reminds me of the great tribulation our Lord and Savior endured upon the cross. Frankly, it makes me uncomfortable.

### **Mel Gibson - The Passion of the Christ**

Years ago, Mel Gibson released his version of the Passion narrative in a movie titled, "The Passion of the Christ." It was a very graphic and violent illustration of what Christ endured on the road to the cross. I have only watched twice — but the feeling of the movie left an incredible mark. So much so, I'm very hesitant in watching it again.

### ***The troubling part***

The realization that Jesus endured all of it for me. He endured all of it for you.

## **Understanding Biblical Holiness**

### **Point 1: Holiness as a Command**

Leviticus 19:2 (NET) 2 "Speak to the whole congregation of the Israelites and tell them, 'You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NET) — 15 but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy

yourselves in all of your conduct, 16 for it is written, "You shall be holy, because I am holy."

**Point 2: Holiness as a Divine Declaration**

Romans 5:1 (NET) — 1 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:6 (NET) — 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

**Point 3: Holiness and God's Work**

Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love.

**Application****Holiness in Everyday Life**

Holiness is the realization of how sinful you really are and the recognition of how forgiving God really is.

**Luther and the Reformation**

"Simul justus et peccator"

"Righteous and at the same time a sinner."

***Profane and Yet Forgiven***

At the moment of our sinfulness, God's love and forgiveness are available to us simultaneously. That is, while we are in the profane moment, we are also declared forgiven. Because of Christ's finishing work on the Cross, God's love and grace already cover the profanity of our behavior.

***Our Natural Sinful State***

The most difficult thing to consider is this truth. When we are actually in the act of

## **Sermon Notes**

## **Palm Sunday**

sinning — getting angry, drinking too much, committing adultery, etc. — God's grace is already at work.

## **Conclusion**

Holiness is the appropriation of God's grace in every aspect of our fallen humanity.

Holiness is the provision of grace to our imperfection.

Holiness is grace applied to our unloveliness.

### **Key Questions:**

Question 1: What was the purpose for taking so much pain on our behalf?

Question 2: What does it mean to be Holy?