

## MY WEEKLY TO DO LIST

Usually on a Sunday afternoon or on Monday morning I will open up my calendar and write out a "To Do" list for the week. I start off each week's "TO DO" list with - SERMON - POWERPOINT- CHILDRENS' STORY- and LITURGY. These four things get top spot on my list each time because they are all necessary components of our weekly worship service. Writing a mid-week message usually occupies the next spot on my list. I would hate to disappoint you by putting this lower on my list and perhaps running out of time during the week to write one. How else would you nod off to sleep while reading? Then my list usually includes meetings, filming an online service, caregiving, administrative tasks, and family commitments during that week.

When Holy Week comes around, my "To Do" list not only has one worship service to plan out at the top, but two with Good Friday as well. As busy as my schedule is during Holy Week, I know of other ministers who put on multiple services during this week. I talked with a person today in order to try and arrange a meeting with them for this week, and he told me that it was a busy week for him with it being Easter. I had to smile on the other end of the phone, and replied, **"You should try having a pastor's schedule during Easter."**

Whenever I find myself bemoaning about my busy "To Do" list during Holy Week, I will sometimes reflect on everything Jesus had to do during that Passover week and realize my schedule is light compared to His. When we begin to read through Mark's Gospel it does not take long to discover how busy Jesus was during that week:

- He kept a promise made 500 years earlier by riding into Jerusalem on a young colt.
- He cleansed the temple of the money changers and vendors who were not honouring the Temple as a house of prayer.
- He continued to find moments throughout the week to teach His disciples, as well as the crowds gathered around Him at the Temple.
- He faced repeated challenges from the religious leaders in their attempts to try to discredit Him.
- He took time to teach about the future and His return.

- He shared the Passover meal with the disciples and instituted the Last Supper

While doing all these things He knew full well He was getting closer and closer to the cross and dying for our sins. Despite Jesus being so busy during that entire week He still carved out time for holy activities. For instance, He took time on the night He was betrayed and arrested to first celebrate the Passover which was a holiday instituted by God Himself to remember Israel's deliverance from Egypt and remind those celebrating it all what God has done. After Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, He took more time to be holy by singing a hymn together with them. Of course, we all remember how Jesus took time to be holy by spending time praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before He was betrayed by Judas. Jesus intentionally carved out this time to do these holy things before His arrest that night.

We might be thinking of the many things we would like to accomplish during this Holy Week. Besides fitting in time with family over Easter we may be hoping to get some work done around the house, watch the Leafs begin their Stanley Cup quest, fit in a few naps, and accomplish many other tasks on our "To Do" lists. ***Let's make sure in the busyness of this week that we follow Jesus' example and take time to be holy.*** Let's try to get out to church on Good Friday and marvel in the shadow of the cross at the incredible love Jesus displayed by taking our place on it in order to secure our forgiveness. On Easter Sunday let's return to church so we can glimpse the empty tomb and celebrate that our Saviour is alive and risen. While we take time to be holy by coming out to these services, we will follow in Jesus' example too of singing hymns and praying prayers. We may have many things on our "To Do" lists this week, but remember no matter how busy our week is, Jesus had an even busier one. He took time to be holy despite His busyness. Let's make sure we follow His example.

***Keep safe and God Bless,***

***Pastor Dean***