

Welcome to 'Wake Up Call' your weekly email support from



Holy Week

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. The events it commemorates are right at the heart of our faith. If we want to take our faith to work then you and I need to reflect on God's most intensive week of work since creation.

It started well with the triumphant entrance into the city, which would make any publicist proud. For a minimal budget (maybe some donkey food) and free transportation, maximum impact had been achieved. The clearance of the temple generated negative publicity but also showed that the boss meant business, and wouldn't allow unethical business practices (another lesson from Holy Week). The week of debates, demonstrations and conflicts culminated in an illegal trial on unfounded charges and a corrupt execution.

So was this week's work a success? Had Jesus realised His potential, had He worked well?

From a low budget entrance to Jerusalem He had gone to the highest cost of all in losing His life. So what price success, and what is success, and how can we learn lessons from this week for all of our weeks? Here are four suggestions.

First, success cannot be defined in itself but what is successful for you. What is successful for you can only be defined if you have figured out the will of God and followed it. When Jesus said "Not My will but yours" He already knew what His Father wanted. Success was to follow it, whatever the cost.

Second, success can only be seen with the eyes of the spirit. Empty tombs, visits from the Lord, pouring out of the spirit and rescuing of wanderers are the measures of the success of Holy Week. See only a trial, execution, persecution, and scattering and you miss the point. Success in your job this week will be related to the unseen achievements, the connections to an invisible Kingdom. Earn money and make money by all legitimate means but make sure you can see a spiritual dynamic in your finances. Achieve your targets and score your goals, whatever that means in your job, but make sure you can catch a glimpse of the spiritual value you are adding.

[Click here for a Bible Reading upon which this wake up call is based](#)

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Please note there will be no Wake Up Call on 1 or 7 April so this weeks is longer to give you more to think about.

Happy Easter from WorkNet.

Third, if you want to succeed you will have to battle. Jesus fought His own human terror in the garden. He faced human opposition the whole week. He battled the darkness on the cross. He won, and we share the spoils but we also take up the cause. The next project which throws up ethical dilemmas or leaves you as a lone voice will remind you of this. When you struggle to find balance or peace in a stressed week, don't forget the battle. And when you are tempted to give up remember the garden. Success is not always pretty, it usually leaves its scars.

Forth, success involves recognising the energy of hope. Rewards may come now or later. But they will come. Jesus saw the joy ahead and therefore could go through the cross. God's pleasure in Him will be repeated in us. Our certain hope is that our long-term future is not only secure but bright beyond imagination.

You may feel as if you are sweating alone in a garden now, but God has a reserved seat for you. It has been paid for and it's the best seat in the house. That's the genius of Holy Week. That's the success we've always wanted.

WORK WELL
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National Director
March 18th 2002
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Please note that over the next few weeks we are in the process of upgrading our websites and email. Also please note our new email address of wakeupcall@worknetuk.org

This address is for correspondence about Wake Up Call only. For general enquiries please use

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WAKE UP NEWS: WorkNet arranges 'Watchmaker Retreats' for people wanting to reflect on their lives email info@worknetuk.org to register your interest.

Here are some relevant readings for the March 25th 2002 Wake Up Call

Matthew 21:1- 17

1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5"Say to the Daughter of Zion,

See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "[1]

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

10When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee

12Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the benches of those selling doves. 13"It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "

14The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

16"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

'From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise?'"

17And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Matthew 27: 11- 26

11Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

12When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. 13Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" 14But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.

15Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 17So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

19While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

20But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

22"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

23"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

24When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

25All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

26Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Hebrews 12: 1- 3

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.