

LUKE

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Luke chapter 22 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In this chapter, we will see a flurry of activity. From Judas betraying Jesus and the preparation for the Passover with the institution of the Lord's Supper or communion. Jesus is going to expose the one who will betray Him, Judas. We also see the disciples still arguing about who is the greatest in God's Kingdom!

Then we move to the Lord telling Peter, and really all of His men, that they will betray Him, and Peter denies that will happen. Then, after the Passover meal they travel to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prays and then is arrested. And we not only see His trials before the Jewish religious leaders, but also, we will see Peter deny the Lord. And the chapter ends with Jesus appearing before the Sanhedrin.

Now there is something that we see here that began before the foundations of the world were established, and that is the love of God for sinful man. Before God even created man, before sin entered this world, God knew what He would have to do to redeem man from His sin!

It is as Jesus said in John 3:16-18, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

That is what we will see here and on into Luke chapter 23, God's love for sinful man. And then, in Luke 24 we see Jesus rise from the grave and because He rose, one day will be raised as well. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Luke chapter 22 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

LUKE 22

VERSES 1-6

Here we are told that the Feast of Passover was drawing near. This feast took place on the 14th of Nisan and it speaks of our redemption. It was a feast that looked forward to the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world as well as a memorial feast commemorating the angel of the Lord passing over the homes that had the blood of the lamb placed on their doorposts. Those that didn't place the blood of the lamb on their doorposts saw the death of their firstborn.

Then, immediately following the Feast of Passover, beginning on the 15th of Nisan, was the Feast of Unleavened Bread which ran through the 21st of Nisan. This feast speaks of our sanctification. Now keep in mind that these feasts ran together and sometimes both of them were spoken of as the Feast of Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Luke tells us that these Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus! Isn't it amazing how these religious leaders had no fear in killing the Son of God but they feared the people, they did not want to lose their positions! Thus, they wanted to wait until after Passover to put Jesus to death.

And make no mistake about it, people still do that today. Maybe not physically killing Jesus but keeping Him out of their lives, and they are accountable for their actions.

Now here in Luke 22:3 we are told, **“Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.”** But in John 13:27 we are told that this took place during the Passover meal. In John 13:27 we are told, **“Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’”**

It is possible that Luke is not giving us a chronological order of events but just stating a fact that Satan himself entered Judas. It is also possible that Satan could have entered Judas more than once, just as evil spirits and demons entered people in the past multiple times.

So, as Satan enters Judas and brings him before these Jewish religious leaders, they are talking about how to betray Him, put Jesus to death. They want an opportune time to arrest Jesus, some time when He is alone or the crowds are not around Him!

And please understand that no one forced Judas to do this. He was responsible for his actions. He could not say, like Flip Wilson use to say, ***“The Devil made me do it!”*** And people today, even though they are influenced by demonic beings, are responsible for the choices they make, the actions they do!

VERSES 7-13

So, as they are preparing for this Passover meal Jesus tells Peter and John to look for a man carrying a pitcher. That was very unusual. You see, women carried liquids in pitchers while the men carried liquids in animal skins. Thus, this would have been a sign to the disciples who this person was, it would have been easy to pick him out of a crowd!

Now this house where they were going to gather for this Passover meal, many commentators feel that this was John Mark's father's house, for John Mark was only about 12 years old at this time.

That means his father would have been the one carrying the pitcher. We are told in Acts 12:12, **“So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.”** So, the early church gathered at his house and it is possible this is where the Passover meal was eaten! And Peter and John are preparing for this feast.

Now why all the secrecy? Probably because He didn't want Judas to know for it was not the right time yet for Judas to complete his betrayal.

Now let me make one more point to help clarify something. First of all, I believe that Jesus and His men will celebrate the Passover meal on Wednesday and He will be also crucified on the Passover. How can that be? How could there be two Passovers? It is interesting how God took care of all these little details so Jesus could celebrate Passover with His men and He could still be the Passover Lamb who has come to take away the sins of the world.

John MacArthur explains it like this,

Josephus, the great Jewish historian who was a Pharisee, living in Jesus' day, explained the law of the Passover. And he said the Paschal lamb has to be eaten during the night and nothing left for morning. The Mishna says it must be eaten by midnight. So they both were committed to the fact that whoever ate it, you had to eat it before the dawn of another day, before the morning time.

Now listen very carefully. As you dig into this history a little bit, and this is what I found fascinating, the Galileans - that's the northern people - and the Pharisees counted the day from sunrise to sunrise, the day of Passover. Whereas the Judean and Sadducees counted it from sunset to sunset.

You say, "How do you know that?" The Mishna, which is the codification of Jewish law, tells us that. It says, for example, that the Galileans would not work at all on the day of Passover. Why? Because the day began for them at the beginning. It says that the Judeans would work until the midday, because the day didn't begin for them until the sunset.

Now you say, "Well, what does all this mean?" Listen very carefully. First thing it does is it harmonizes John 18 and 19 because it tells us that Galileans, which would be Jesus and His disciples and the Pharisees, could have their Passover on the evening . . . because they already began to count the day from morning to morning and it would end on [the next] morning. And the others who were from Judea and who were Sadducees which made up the rulers wouldn't start their day festivities until late [in the evening] and wouldn't kill their lamb until the end of the [next] day . . .

Now you say, "Why is that important?" Listen to me. It's odd that it would be like that. It's very odd. And we really can't identify specifically as to how that came to pass. But what fascinates me is this, listen very carefully. Jesus had to die on . . . crucified . . . when the traditional Judean Jerusalem Passover lambs would be killed, from three to five [in the evening] . . . He had to die then. That's why it says, "In the ninth hour."

He also had to keep the Passover because He had to transform it into the Lord's table. So, how could Jesus keep the Passover and still be the Passover lamb? There would be absolutely no way that that could be possible unless God allowed this kind of thing to take place in history so that when it came to the very moment that Jesus was going to die, in that very year, there was no problem in having a Galilean Passover . . . and dying in the Judean Passover . . . perfectly on schedule and violating no Jewish law at all.

- John MacArthur

So, Jesus not only celebrated the Passover meal with his men, He also was crucified on Passover as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed. It is as Paul reminds us regarding Jesus, **“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”** I Corinthians 5:7.

VERSES 14-18

Again, keep in mind that this was the last Passover meal that Jesus would celebrate with His men and it truly is the last one that is needed for now the Lamb of God has come and taken away all of our sins.

Also keep in mind that there is coming another feast, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that we will celebrate with Jesus.

Now as some read this they see it as the beginning of the end, but it truly is the beginning of the beginning of the new life we have in Christ! And make no mistake about it, the work that Jesus came to accomplish He will fulfill!

But before He goes He is giving His men Communion or this New Covenant that is found in His shed blood. Let's read on and see what this is all about.

VERSES 19-20

First of all, keep in mind that “Everything eaten at the Passover meal had symbolic meaning. The bitter herbs recalled the bitterness of slavery; the salt water remembered the tears shed under Egypt’s oppression. The main course of the meal – a lamb freshly sacrificed for that particular household – did not symbolize anything connected to the agonies of Egypt. It was the sin-bearing sacrifice that allowed the judgment of God to pass over the household that believed.”
(David Guzik)

When it comes to these elements of communion there are a few different ideas. First of all the Roman Catholic Church holds to the idea of *transubstantiation*, which teaches that the bread and the wine *actually* become the body and blood of Jesus. But Jesus would not institute something that is contrary to the Scriptures and the drinking of blood and cannibalism is not allowed! And secondly, Jesus had not died yet, so how would that work?

Martin Luther held the idea of *consubstantiation*, which teaches the bread remains bread and the wine remains wine, but by faith they are the same as Jesus’ actual body. Luther did not believe in the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation, but he did not go far from it. I don’t see the Scriptures teaching this either.

I don't think it is that hard to understand what Jesus is teaching here. You see, the elements of communion don't become the actual body and blood of Christ as some teach. They symbolically represent His body, the bread, which was broken for us, and His blood, the wine, which was shed for our sins. The key, of course, is that we are to **“do this in remembrance of [Him].”**

I hope that is clear. It is a picture of the new life we have in Christ that is based upon the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Don't miss the point, remember the work that was completed by Jesus for us!

Now what about Judas, did he celebrate in this new covenant, the Lord's Supper? I don't believe Judas was there at this point. In John 13:21-30 we are told, **“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’ Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’ But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, ‘Buy those things we need for the feast,’ or that he should give something to the poor. Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.”**

I believe Judas left prior to Jesus instituting communion because light and darkness don't mix!

VERSES 21-23

As you read this it would seem that Judas partook of the Lord's Supper and yet, in the other Gospel's it seems that he didn't. Which one is right? Keep in mind, like I have said, Luke does not give to us the chronological order. One writer gives us this perspective and I believe he is correct. He wrote,

In Luke's gospel, several incidents are recounted according to subject matter rather than being presented in the order in which they actually occurred. This is clear in the narrative of the baptism of Christ. Luke mentions the story of John the Baptist, his sermons, his preaching for repentance by baptism, and his baptizing of the multitude in the Jordan River. He then mentions that King Herod arrested John the Baptist and shut him up in prison, because John had rebuked him for his marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. It is well known, as mentioned in the gospels, that Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan before he was shut up in prison, and before John's martyrdom which followed his imprisonment. However, Luke, after mentioning the imprisonment of John, continues saying, "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him." (Luke 3:21-22).

- <http://www.ukapologetics.net/11/judascommunion.htm>

So I don't believe that Judas partook of the Lord's Supper!

Now, let me say this because there are those who feel that Judas was not responsible for what he did, it was foreordained by God! You see, according to Revelation 13:8, Jesus was the Lamb who was slain before the foundations of the world were ever established. He was born to die for our sins.

Thus, some say that Judas was just fulfilling God's plan and is not accountable for his actions! Garbage! You see, Judas didn't have to be an instrument of Satan, he chose to be!

What is interesting to me is that the other apostles didn't pick Judas out as the betrayer. Why? Because Jesus treated Judas with the same love and compassion as He did the others, each had the same chance and choice to make!

VERSES 24-27

We are so much like these men. At the feast of Passover, as well as before, they are arguing who is the greatest. They were competing against each other, fighting amongst themselves for the best place in God's Kingdom.

First of all, it was not theirs to take. God takes care of those things. And they were focused on self instead of the Lord and what He was saying to them.

At least three times it is recorded that Jesus spoke of His death and resurrection to them and here in Luke He is speaking of His suffering, and they are still arguing about who is the greatest!

And you thought Muhammad Ali was the first to coin that phrase!

And think about who is with them, Jesus! And if I were Jesus, and you should be praising God that I am not, I would have said, "Hey goofballs, I am the greatest!"

But that is not what Jesus did. Jesus didn't answer their question with words but with His actions, as He washes the feet of these men according to John 13:3-5.

Then, after He washes their feet we read in Luke 22:25-27, “... **‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called “benefactors.” But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.’**”

As you look at this world you see that people like to lord over others. Not only that but people will serve if they can be assured of getting proper credit for what they did,

“benefactors.”

Many Christians serve that way and when they don’t get something in return or things don’t go their way, they are out, how sad!

Jesus is telling us we are to be servants and He gives to us a great example, Himself! In Mark 10:45 we are told, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

I can’t tell you how often this happens when people want to be served or they want the credit for serving and, like I have said, when that does not happen, look out! Let me share with you something Jesus said in regard to servants, which we are, bond slaves of Christ!

In Luke 17:7-10 we are told, **“And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”**

That is the perspective we need to have. Not that we can’t thank people for helping out, but if we don’t get that “Thank you” we are not disappointed because we are serving the Lord and He is the One who will reward us for our service.

But, unless you crucify the flesh, deny self, you will not be able to serve the Lord and in reality, you will not be able to serve or minister to people because our service to the Lord is unto people!

Now as much as these men might not see this as being fair, and maybe you don’t think this is fair, that this is right, Jesus tells them, **“... Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”** Jesus, Almighty God is the One who should be served and yet, He has become a servant and He is our example to follow! Jesus is a ***SERVANT – LEADER!***

You see, when you put that into perspective, we have no right to exalt ourselves or think we should be served. We are all servants of the Lord!

VERSES 28-30

Jesus is speaking to His men here, the Apostles. And He is saying that they would receive a unique reward because they are the ones who have continued with Jesus in His trials. Jesus appreciated and valued the support He received from His disciples. The apostles will have special status in the Kingdom of God. They will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel, and their names will be on the twelve foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14)

But let me also say this. We do not serve for the rewards we will get. We serve the Lord to bring glory to God and as we do, we will be rewarded.

It is as John tells us in Revelation 1:4-6, **“John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**

And Peter said in I Peter 2:9-10, **“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”**

God gets the glory for all that we do, never forget that!

VERSES 31-34

Keep in mind that in Matthew 26:31 Jesus said, “**. . . ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night . . .’**” Not just Peter and they all rejected that. They all said they would not deny the Lord but I think Peter was more sure of himself than the others.

Why do I say that? Because the Lord singles out Peter here. Peter is going to see what is really in his heart. That when persecution comes about his faith in Christ, even from a servant girl, he is going to deny the Lord!

And Jesus said to Peter, “**. . . ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.’**” Now that is something you do not want to hear!

In regard to these words, one writer put it like this. “Satan desires that in the sifting process ‘No wheat shall remain,’ but that all (like Judas) will be blown away like chaff.”

(Geldenhuys)

You see, Satan wanted to crush Peter. And here is the wonderful thing. Jesus prayed for Peter, interceded for him. Jesus prayed that Peter’s faith would stand and not be blown away.

Notice that Jesus didn’t pray for Peter to escape the trial, why? Because that is where he will grow, that is where he will see what is inside of him; it helped his character to grow, and the same is true for us. You see, the thing we need to remember is that as we are going through these trials, Jesus is interceding for us and He will help us through them and in the end, like Peter, we will be able to help others as they go through trials!

Peter is going to see what is in his heart and it is not going to be pretty nor is it intended to be pretty. But before he can let that go, he needed to see it for himself and he will!

You see, the problem Peter had is a problem we all struggle with. We think we know ourselves better than God does!

Make no mistake about it, Peter was very sincere in what he was saying, that he would not forsake the Lord. The problem was that he was completely wrong. He would not be able to stand in his own strength and neither can we.

You see, self-confidence is built upon shaky ground. It is as Maclaren said, “It is sometimes easier to bear a great load for Christ than a small one. Some of us could be martyrs at the stake more easily than confessors among sneering neighbors.”

I think Paul puts things into perspective for us as he wrote in II Corinthians 12:10, **“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”** You see, weak in the flesh, strong in the Lord! And if we let pride, our own strength get in the way, God will show us and like Peter, we need to learn the lesson and sometimes it is a hard lesson to learn!

VERSES 35-38

Things are changing here. You see, when the disciples went out before they didn’t need these things for they were received with good will and hospitality. But now things have changed, it is a hostile world, and they must use common sense as they go. Times are going to be tough! It is amazing the number of Christians who don’t use common sense; they are totally unprepared for the spiritual battle we are in and that is manifested in the natural realm.

And in verse 37 Jesus is telling them that all that was written of Him in the Scriptures would be fulfilled, the over 300 prophecies related to His First Coming would be completed and they were!

Jesus finished the work He was sent to do. He went to the cross of Calvary and paid in full the penalty for our sins, rising on the third day.

Now I need to deal with this topic and I don't want to offend anyone but it is what it is. When Jesus said, "**. . . he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one**" has been misused and even abused.

And as many read verse 38 it gets even worse. Luke tells us, "**So they said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.'** **And He said to them, 'It is enough.'**"

Some 30 years ago or so I was listening to a Christian radio station in Chicago and they were discussing this verse and using it to justify that we are to arm ourselves. I am not saying you can't have a gun as a Christian, but this was more of a militant form of Christianity and it was not biblical.

So, I called them and tried to explain to them how they took this out of context. And, of course, they did not like it and ignored my point.

And as much as the disciples didn't understand what would happen in the next several hours, thinking they were preparing for battle, that thought continues on today. In fact, later Christians also did not understand what Jesus meant here. "In his notorious papal bull *Unam Sanctum*, Boniface VIII (A.D. 1302) built on this text his doctrine that the Pope has the right to exercise secular as well as spiritual autocratic rule over mankind – the two swords, he said, are the spiritual sword and the secular sword." (Geldenhuys)

Please understand that this is not a call to arms. That is just foolish! Jesus said, "**It is enough!**" or "***Do not say anything more about the matter!***" Why?

Think about that. What were two swords going to do against some 600 soldiers plus others who were coming with them to arrest Jesus?

You see, it is a spiritual battle we are in, and even if you had a thousand swords, you couldn't win! Paul put it this way in II Corinthians 10:3-6, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”** Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons! I hope that clears that up.

VERSES 39-42

Remember that Judas was looking for an opportune time for the Jewish religious leaders to arrest Jesus. And an isolated area like the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives would be the perfect place.

How did Judas know that is where Jesus would be? Because Luke tells us this is the place Jesus went to often. In fact, during that week He spent His nights there, (Luke 21:37). And He did not change His routine even with this danger before Him!

Now, keep in mind that the place that Jesus goes to pray is called **“Gethsemane”** which means olive press and I find that interesting. You see, not only was Jesus going to be crushed for our sins, but in this garden, we see the forces of darkness trying to crush Him, for Him to fail in His mission.

This is the greatest spiritual battle ever fought and how was it won? By Jesus being on His knees in prayer. Again, a powerful lesson for us to understand and apply to our lives!

Now all His men went with Him to the Mount of Olives but only Peter, James and John went to this garden area to be with Jesus when He prayed. They were only a short distance away.

And keep in mind that during this time of great anguish, who does Jesus have with Him? His friends. Another great lesson for us, to have those we can confide in close by in those difficult times so they can pray for us, encourage us in the battle we are in.

The other Gospels tell us that Jesus prayed three times and each time He went back to Peter, James and John they were asleep. Yes, the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak!

When people tell me that Jesus is not the only way or good works get us into heaven, I think about what took place here in the Garden of Gethsemane. Why would I do that? Because Jesus said, **“... ‘Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will but Yours, be done.’”**

Jesus is praying to God the Father and asking that if there is another way to accomplish the salvation of man, then let's do it. But if not, if that is not Your will, then Your will be done and He was going to obey!

And my point is this. If there was another way besides the cross to save sinful man, then God the Father ignored the prayer of Jesus or lied to Him by basically saying there is no other way when there was. Let me be clear on this – ***THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF SALVATION THAN THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST!***

Jesus said in John 14:6, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** He is the only way!

In Acts 4:12 Peter tells us, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** I think that is pretty clear!

Now this cup that He was about to drink was the cup of the wrath of God which was to be poured out upon Him as He bore the sins of the world for us.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 12:2-3, **“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”**

You see, it is not my way. It is not your way. It is **YAHWEH!**

VERSES 43-46

Peter, James and John are sleeping when they should have been there with Jesus. So, we see that God the Father sends an angel to strengthen Him in this battle. I am sure we have been strengthened many times in the battles we face, unaware of what is taking place behind the scenes.

As Jesus is praying, in agony over what is before Him, he begins to sweat drops of blood. This condition of sweat becoming like drops of blood is a condition that is called hematidrosis and it occurs under great stress as tiny blood vessels rupture in the sweat glands and the blood mixes with water.

One writer had this to say, “There have been cases in which persons in a debilitated state of body, or through horror of soul, have had their sweat tinged with blood. . . . Cases sometimes happen in which, through *mental pressure*, the pores may be so dilated that the blood may issue from them; so that there may be a bloody sweat.” (Clarke)

And, just in case you don't believe that this can happen, one web site put it like this, "Around the sweat glands, there are multiple blood vessels in a net-like form, which constrict under the pressure of great stress. Then, as the anxiety passes, the blood vessels dilate to the point of rupture and goes into the sweat glands." (<https://www.google.com/search?q=hematidrosis+&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8>)

Now this is interesting to me. Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane in agony and He now comes out in peace. How did that happen. How can that be? Nothing has really changed, has it?

Because He submitted to the will of the Father and He was at peace with it and I think that can happen to us as we are going through a tough time. It will be a battle until we submit to His will and put to death our will!

Three times Jesus went to pray and each time He came back His men were asleep, as I have said. Now, as He is before them, praying over them, He sees the several hundred-people coming up the Mount of Olives with their lanterns lit to arrest Him, and He awakens them.

And He tells them, "... '... Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." What a good lesson for us to learn. Be on guard, pay attention to where you are walking, what you are watching, the things you are doing so you don't trip and fall!

VERSES 47-53

As Jesus finished speaking to His men we see Judas and this cohort of men, some 600 armed men plus the chief priests' soldiers, the Sanhedrin and the High Priest and his men, which means there could have been some 800 to 1,000 men or more coming for Jesus, for one man in the middle of the night and they were armed to the teeth! And as they traveled many had with them lanterns and He saw this trail of light coming up the Mount of Olives, to the Garden of Gethsemane! He knew what was going to happen.

And the plan of Judas was to go and kiss Jesus and that would identify Him to the soldiers that He was the one to arrest. How cold that was. Judas gave Jesus a kiss of love but it was hypocrisy. He did not love the Lord but was willing to make a profit off His arrest. And because Judas had to identify Jesus, that means Jesus must have looked like your average Joe you might say. He did not have a glow over his head.

Remember, they had two swords with them and Peter must have had one of them. And he takes this sword and he cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest named Malchus. That means if Peter was right handed, and he most likely attacked this man from behind, he cut off his right ear! You don't win many battles by cutting off ears, but you do make the enemy mad at you!

Now we see that Jesus cleans up the mess that Peter left behind by placing this man's ear back on his head. I wonder how many times Jesus has to clean up our messes we have left behind?

Again, you don't win these battles with physical swords but with the sword of the Spirit! On the day of Pentecost Peter spoke forth the Word of God and in Acts 2:37 we are told, "**Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'**"

Conviction cut their hearts and they were saved as they gave their lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior! That is much better than cutting off ears!

I like how Jesus turns the tables on the Jewish religious leaders. He tells them that He was daily in the Temple and no one arrested Him then. But now, under the cover of night and with some 800 to 1,000 people they come to arrest Him. And Jesus was showing them what was in their hearts, ***DARKNESS!***

And please understand that the arrest of Jesus was illegal for it was done at night and through a hired accuser. Now Jesus is going to face six trials. He will face three religious trials and three civil trials before Rome. They are as follows:

RELIGIOUS TRIALS

1. Before Annas - (He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was the acting high priest but Annas was probably the power behind the scene for the people recognized Annas more than Caiaphas.) John 18:12-14.
2. Before Caiaphas - (High priest placed there by Rome.) Matthew 26:57-58.
3. Before the Sanhedrin - Matthew 27:1-2.

CIVIL TRIAL – ROMAN

1. Before Pilate – John 18:28-38.
2. Before Herod – Luke 23:6-12.
3. Before Pilate – John 18:39-19:6.

Before we read on let me show you how illegal this Jewish religious trial was. This is only a partial list. You can go to the web page I have for this and check this out more if you want. We are told,

“The Jewish law prohibited any part of legal proceedings by night.” (Dupin in, “Jesus Devant Caiphe et Pilate.”)

Even before Jesus’ trial began the law was broken because His arrest was illegal. The Jewish law prohibited any part of a legal proceeding in capital offenses to take place at night, and Jesus was arrested at night.”

“A capital offense must be tried during the day and suspended at night” (Mishna in “Sanhedrin” Vol.1)

“Criminal cases can be acted upon by the various courts during the day time only.” (Mendelsohn in “Criminal Jurisprudence of Ancient Hebrews” p. 112).

“The morning sacrifice is offered at the dawn of day. The Sanhedrin is not to assemble until the hour after that time.” (Mishna, in “Talmud, of the Perpetual Sacrifice.” Chapter III)

The Law stated, “Court must not be held on the Sabbath, or any holy day.” (Betza, chapter Vol. II).

The Law stated, “A criminal case resulting in the acquittal of the accused may terminate the same day on which it began. But if a sentence of death is to be pronounced, it cannot be conducted before the following day.” (Mishna in “Sanhedrin” IV. 1.)

The Law stated, “A simultaneous and unanimous verdict of guilt rendered on the day of the trial has the effect of an acquittal.” (Mendelsohn in “Criminal Juris- prudence of the Ancient Hebrews” p. 141).

“If none of the judges defend the culprit, i.e. all pronounce him guilty, having no defender in the court, the verdict guilty was invalid and the sentence of death could not be executed.” (Rabbi Wise in “Martyrdom of Jesus” p. 74)

The condemnation sentence was pronounced against Jesus by the Sanhedrin and was founded upon His uncorroborated confession. The Law stated, “No one can bring an accusation against himself. Should a man make confession of guilt before a legally constituted tribunal, such confession is not to be said against him unless properly attested by two witnesses.” (Maimonides in “Sanhedrin” IV p.2).

- https://www.netbiblestudy.com/00_cartimages/illegaltrialofjesus.pdf

Let’s read on and see how this plays out.

VERSES 54-62

Now they skipped Jesus’ encounter with Annas and they go to the High Priest, Caiaphas’ house.

Now, remember what Jesus said earlier, “**. . . ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’ . . . ‘I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.’**”

Luke 22:31-32, 34.

What Jesus warned Peter about, and Peter refused to believe it could ever happen, was taking place. And there is so much we can learn from what took place here. First of all, he followed Jesus at a distance. Then he warmed himself by the enemy's fire and sat down with them. He tried to blend in with the crowd but that didn't work!

He lied and in each lie it got more intense, he was speaking with such confidence, this lie that he never knew Jesus! Look at this. He denied he knew Jesus. He denied he was a follower of Jesus. He denied he was from Galilee!

And it was at this point, in his third denial of knowing Jesus, that the rooster crowed and the eyes of Peter met the eyes of Jesus and he was broken and went away and wept. I can imagine the pain, the hurt, the disappointment Peter felt when that rooster crowed. I am sure we have all experienced similar things in our life where we feel we disappointed the Lord!

Now when it says that the eyes of Jesus met the eyes of Peter, how do you think the Lord looked at Peter? Maybe with disdain and disgust. Have you ever felt the Lord looking at you like that?

Maybe He said, "I told you Peter!" Or "Peter, how could you do that?" Or maybe "Peter, you are a failure!" And again, I am sure we have felt that way before.

Now here's the thing. I don't believe Jesus responded like that. The ancient Greek word for "**looked**" "usually signifies a look of interest, love, or concern." (Liefeld)

I believe that Jesus looked at Peter with such love, such compassion that it broke Peter and he did need to be broken of self. Can I be sure of that? Absolutely.

You see, Jesus already told Peter that this was going to happen. So, this is not a surprise to Jesus. And, again, I know the love of God for us and He knows how frail we are and He is always working in us so that He can work through us. In John chapter 21 we see Jesus restore Peter and really, we see that here in Luke chapter 22 as Jesus said in verse 32, “**... and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.**”

I love that. I think the same is true for us. As we fail, as we stumble, as we are broken of self, when we return we can help those who are dealing with these same issues just as the Lord has done with Peter. May we look upon them with the love of God and not disdain!

Remember what Jeremiah 31:3 says, “**The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’**”

And in Ephesians 2:4 we are told, “**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.**” Never forget that He loves you. Don’t let the enemy sift you as wheat and blow you away with his lies!

VERSES 63-65

Keep in mind that this is still before they gathered with the Sanhedrin, that is coming up in the morning light. They are still at the house of Caiaphas and it is before sunrise.

And here we see these religious leaders beating Jesus but first they blindfolded Him so He couldn’t see. The reason they did that is because Jesus could not turn to lessen the blows.

Isaiah 52:14 tells us of what took place hundreds of years before the event. We read, “**Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men.**”

This is just the beginning of that abuse, He will endure more at the hands of Pilate, much more!

I like what Spurgeon wrote regarding this and listen carefully to how Jesus responded to these things. He wrote, "I must also call him *victorious*. His persecutors could not make him give way to anger. They could not destroy his mercy; they could not slay his love; they could not cause him to think of himself; they could not make him declare that he would go no further with his work of saving sinners now that men began to scoff at him, and smite him, and despitefully use him." That is our Lord and Savior and His love for us!

VERSES 66-71

So, this is the official trial before the Sanhedrin and there are no witnesses because in the trial at night they contradicted each other. And it is interesting that these Jewish religious leaders wanted the truth, at least that is what they said. **"If you are the Christ, tell us."**

The problem was they were not interested in the truth. For the past three years Jesus lived in the open for all to see that He is the fulfillment of what the Old Testament prophets spoke of regarding the Messiah and they rejected it. So, their question was empty, the Sanhedrin already decided that Jesus was guilty! He was not the Messiah!

And we are no different today. Many say they want to know about Jesus, learn about Him and when it goes against their beliefs, they reject Him. May we be open to what God has for us and remember, what He is showing us is **ALWAYS** in accordance to His Word and not apart or instead of His Word!

And here is the thing that gets them angry. Jesus says, **“Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”** In other words, Jesus is claiming to be Almighty God! But these Jewish religious leaders refused to accept that Jesus was God, equal to the Father, even though their own Scriptures testify of this.

And please understand that I am not being hard on them, that is just the reality. In Matthew 22:41-46 we are told, **“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The Son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How then does David in the Spirit call Him “Lord,” saying: “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?’” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”**

You see, Jesus points to their foolishness of denying that the Son of God would be God and not just a man. They knew He would be the Son of David, but the problem comes when David calls Him **“lord”** for that is not kosher.

The father would never call his son lord. That means He must be more than just the son of David, and He is! It is as Paul tells us, **“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”** Romans 1:3-4.

You see, their minds were made up even though their own beliefs were contrary to the Scriptures. Thus, in their minds Jesus is guilty and He is going to be lead to Pilate so he could put Him to death for them!

Let me leave you this evening with these words from Jesus in John 10:7-10 where we read, **“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.’”** That abundant life is only found in Him!

Like these Jewish religious leaders, they let tradition, pride, the fear of man get in the way of them coming to Christ. May you not follow their example but come to Him because He loves you and died for your sins!