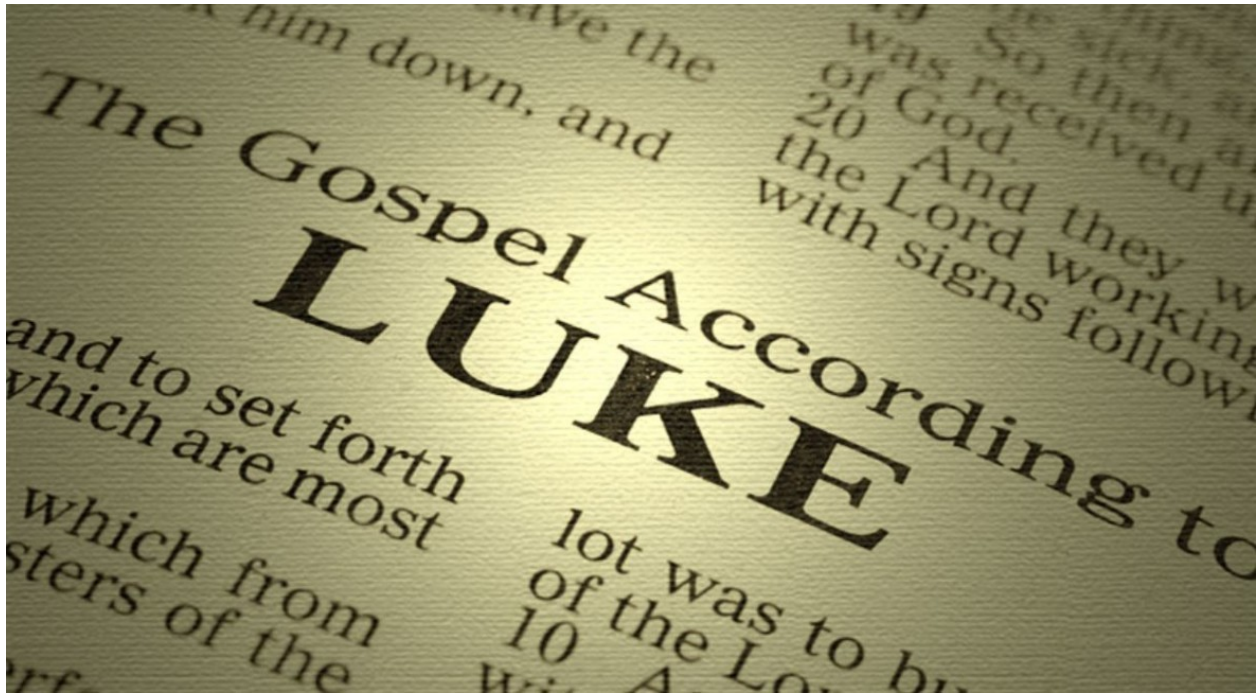


Luke 22 (1)



T. M. AND SUSIE MOORE

A Scriptorium Study from The Fellowship of Ailbe

Luke 22 (1)
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Introduction to Luke 22, Part 1

It is the evening of His arrest, the day before His crucifixion, and the last day of Jesus' earthly life.

And He is in total control of everything.

No wonder He can face what lies ahead of Him with courage, confidence, peace, and even joy (Ps. 22.21-31; Heb. 12.1-3).

Jesus controls all temporal circumstances, everything that happens in time. Thanks be to God!

If you find these studies, or any of our other resources, helpful, we hope you will consider making a contribution to help support our work. You can do so by using the donate button at the website or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 103 Reynolds Lane, West Grove, PA 19390.

We hope you find this study of the gospel of Luke instructive and helpful to equip you for your walk with and work for the Lord. Thank you for joining us.

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1 Betrayed

Pray Psalm 55.9-15.

Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues,
For I have seen violence and strife in the city.
Day and night they go around it on its walls;
Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it.
Destruction is in its midst;
Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets.
For it is not an enemy who reproaches me;
Then I could bear it.
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me;
Then I could hide from him.
But it was you, a man my equal,
My companion and my acquaintance.
We took sweet counsel together,
And walked to the house of God in the throng.
Let death seize them;
Let them go down alive into hell,
For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them.

Sing Psalm 55.9-15.

(Bread of Life: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*)
Let judgment fall, O Lord, let violence cease.
Daily they mock Your Word while sins increase.
You were for us betrayed; You bore our grief.
By You was judgment stayed for our relief.

Read and meditate on Luke 22.1-6.

Preparation

1. When does the action of this chapter take place? What happened at this feast?
2. How was Judas moved to betray Jesus?

Meditation

Judas did not arrive at this treachery in a single step. He drifted from Jesus, pilfering the money box (of which he had charge), criticizing the Lord's actions and words (Jn. 12.4-6), and—as is clear in these verses—allowing himself to be open to the suggestions of the devil.

What happened to Judas can happen to all who fail to heed Jesus' instruction to watch our ways and pray without ceasing (Lk. 21.36). We are always being tempted to drift from Jesus and His salvation (Heb. 2.1). Many affections can set us adrift from the Lord: covetousness, lust, jealousy, resentment, haughtiness, and more. Therefore, we must keep a close watch on our soul, seeking the Lord in prayer to arrest any unrecognized sins and purging them from us (Ps. 139.23, 24; Ps. 119.59, 60).

Look at the perversion of affections at work in these verses. Judas, lusting after money as he dickered with the religious leaders for the best price; and the religious leaders, "glad" and ready to pay for Jesus' betrayal. And fear—fear of "the multitude", whom they hugely overestimated regarding their loyalty to Jesus.

Whenever you discover any drifting in your soul, cut it off at once, and re-anchor your affections in the Lord and His Word.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162.

What awful people the chief priests, scribes, and Judas were! Not only were they treacherous, but they were flat out stupid too. Really? Afraid of the people? Careful about the timing to betray Jesus in the absence of the multitude? What about God's purview over all of life? Didn't they care about fearing Him?

Way back in Ezra's time, even though things had been tumultuous because of the people's disobedience, the temple was now rebuilt and the people along with their leadership rejoiced: "Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy" (Ezra 6.16). They were headed on a good path.

In Isaiah's time God spoke to him about Whom they should respect and fear: "The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread." And then God predicted how these very leaders would react when Jesus arrived: "He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken" (Is. 8.13-15). They were being told, "watch where you're going."

In Jesus' day, He sternly warned: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10.28). Because He knew they had not watched where they were going and had determinedly decided to follow the weighty path of darkness. The darkest path of all.

For three years Judas had heard Jesus' teaching: "He who is not with Me is against Me..." (Lk. 11.23).

And then came the ultimate awful end for Judas, who had been warned to "watch your deviations." Because he did not fill his heart with Jesus, it was empty and ready for Satan to enter (Lk. 22.3): "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Lk. 11.26). Good thing Judas was concerned about what the folks thought.

We need to get our priorities straight before the LORD GOD of heaven. This is no joke. "It is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life..." (Deut. 32.47). God does not take kindly to those who betray His Dear Son: "If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!" (1 Cor. 16.22).

God, through His Holy Spirit, has given us the strength and wisdom to follow Jesus. We do not have to be like the chief priests, scribes, and Judas: "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts" (Ps. 119.99, 100). In His Word we learn to love and fear the Lord Jesus; and in so doing:

Prevent betrayal.

For reflection

1. Typically, we don't run from the Lord; we drift from Him. Explain.
2. How can you tell when someone is drifting from the Lord? When *you* might be drifting from the Lord?
3. How can believers help one another to stay on the Lord's path and avoid drifting from Him?

It is hard to say whether more mischief is done to Christ's kingdom, by the power of its open enemies, or by the treachery of its pretended friends; but without the latter, its enemies could not do so much evil as they do. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Luke 22.1-6

Pray Psalm 55.16-23.

Cast your burdens on the Lord. Commit to seeking Him throughout the day, in prayers of thanks for what He has done and praise for Who He is. Prayer keeps us close to the Lord, so that we do not drift from Him.

Sing Psalm 55.16-23

(Bread of Life: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*)

Lord, I will call on You, answer and save!
Noon, morning, evening too, my voice I raise.
Grant me Your peace, O Lord; answer my foes!
All who reject God's Word He overthrows.

Many assail, O Lord, many betray.
See how they draw their sword across my way.
Take up my burden, Lord; strengthen and bless!
Let judgment by Your Word their souls distress.

2 Sovereign in All the Details

Pray Psalm 33.10-12.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.
The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
The plans of His heart to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Sing Psalm 33.10-12.

(Truro: *Sbout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*)

He nullifies the nations' plans; forever stands His sov'reign Word.
All they are blessed who with Him stand—the chosen people of the Lord.

Read Luke 22.1-13; meditate on verses 7-13.

Preparation

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples?
2. What happened when they followed His instructions?

Meditation

We might wonder why Luke included this little vignette here. In view of what was about to happen, it seems so trivial. Is Luke just being the fussy historian, unable to lay aside even the most apparently insignificant of his research notes?

Hardly. Both Matthew and Mark include this story as well. The reason is clear. Jesus here reminds His disciples that God is sovereign in all the details of what happens to Jesus. Jesus, knowing those details, is God. But He doesn't just *know* things—about this man with water, the master of the house, and the guest room upstairs. He *arranged* all these things. And even though the man with the water and the master of the house couldn't tell you why they were where they were, or how it is that this room was ready just so, still, they were subject to the sovereign rule of King Jesus, Who works all things according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1.11).

God, Who orchestrated all the arrangements for the Passover supper, similarly orchestrated all the details of what would follow, including the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus (cf. Acts 2.22-24). We may feel sometimes like our lives are “out of control.” Jesus *never* felt that way, because He was *always* in control of *all things*, and that includes everything that pertains to Him and His work.

He is sovereign in all the details of your life as well, which is why you can glorify Him and be at peace in even the most quotidian of activities (1 Cor. 10.31). Thanks and praise are always due the Lord, Who sees us from His holy heaven, upholds us by His powerful Word, guides and empowers us by His Spirit, and works all things together for our good.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

God cares about the details of our lives.

Fifty years ago, we got a small rebate. With that rebate we bought one of our first pieces of furniture. It is not an expensive piece, nor is it an antique, or of any value to anyone other than our family. But in all our twenty-three moves we have always been able to find a special place for this water bench. And fifty years ago, God

knew exactly where this old piece of beloved furniture would be sitting right now.

In the same way, I think about that house where Jesus and His disciples shared their last meal together. When the builder built it, he had no idea that years later the Savior of the world would eat there. When the owner of the house bought it, he could never have imagined what that furnished upper room would hold in eternal value. The details. God is always in them.

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well...
And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me,
when as yet there were none of them” (Ps. 139.13, 14, 16).

When we look and see His trustworthy faithfulness, day in and day out, in furniture, families, buildings, rooms, and people, we are overwhelmed with His tender, sovereign, and loving care over all of His creation.

God not only knew about our water bench, but He knew about us. Before we were born.
And He knew about that upper room. Where Jesus dined and sent out the one who betrayed Him.
None of this caught Him by surprise, for everything is “orchestrated” by Him.
All of life, death, and resurrection. The eternity of His Word.
All of the coming destruction to this world, and the creation of the new heavens and earth.
All of it. Everything. He knows.

The disciples had already experienced Jesus’ ability to tell them what the future held:
“So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them” (Lk. 19.32).
And His present day disciples have experienced His resurrection and the filling of His Holy Spirit.
So, we need not worry about our future. We are in His loving hands.

And He, we know, is “Sovereign in All the Details”.

For reflection

1. Why is it important that we understand that Jesus is sovereign in all the details of our lives?
2. How does knowing this provide comfort? Encouragement? Hope?
3. How should knowing this shape the way we pray about our daily lives?

*The Lord said this to them clearly, on account of everything that would happen to them. He also did this on Palm Sunday, with the donkey and her colt, where they would find it, and what the person would say if they would dare to untie it. This was so that they might take some courage and not be quite so afraid of the violence of the Jews, if they heard how the Lord knew everything ahead of time which would befall them. Melchior Neukirch (1540-1597), *The Second Part of the Passion* 9*

Pray Psalm 33.13-22.

Praise God for His sovereign oversight of all things, that He watches constantly over you, cares deeply for you, and is ever ready to bring you more deeply into His joy.

Sing Psalm 33.13-22.

(Truro: *Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*)

God from His throne looks down on men; He knows our works and made our hearts.
Let not Your Church, let none depend on strength or skill or human arts.

God watches those who fear His Name, who hope upon His grace and love.

Luke 22 (1)

He keeps their souls from death and shame who trust in Him Who reigns above.

God is our Helper and our Shield; upon us let Your grace descend!
We hope in You; to You we yield; we trust in Jesus to the end.

3 The Lord's Supper

Pray Psalm 116.7-9.

Return to your rest, O my soul,
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
For You have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears,
And my feet from falling.
I will walk before the LORD
In the land of the living.

Sing Psalm 116.7-9.

(Mit Freuden Zart: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Full well the Lord has dealt with me; my soul from death He delivered.
My weeping eyes, my stumbling feet, He has redeemed forever.
Forever I before His face shall walk with those who know His grace,
and dwell with them forever.

Read Luke 22.1-23; meditate on verses 14-23.

Preparation

1. How did Jesus instruct His disciples concerning this Supper?
2. What did He say would happen to Him shortly?

Meditation

By His actions in these verses, Jesus assumed the role of the Passover lamb. He brought that institution to its pre-appointed end (Heb. 10.5-10), replacing it with a sacrament more appropriate for remembering His work and maintaining communion with Him.

The Lord's Supper serves to remind us that only by His bodily incarnation and shed blood do we have forgiveness of sins and fellowship with God. But it also provides a means of true spiritual "communion" in the Lord, Who is present in the elements of the Supper by His Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 10.15-17).

Having served the bread and blessed the cup, Jesus revealed what would happen next. He would be betrayed by one who was partaking of the Supper with Him (v. 21). This sent a wave of murmuring, speculating, and concern among the disciples, as they wondered "which of them it was who would do this thing" (v. 23). Jesus indicated to John that the betrayer was Judas, whom He sent out from their midst once he had partaken of the Supper (Jn. 13.22-27).

We must always take care that we do not betray the Lord by our sinful acts, whether of commission or omission. The disciples could not imagine such a thing, but they would all abandon Him when push came to shove in Gethsemane. The Lord's Supper is an important resource for reaffirming our faith and firming-up our relationship and fellowship with the Lord. As we take it, let us be increasingly grateful for our salvation, and drink the cup and eat the bread of salvation fully aware of our constant need of the Lord's work within us to keep us in fellowship with Him.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

"Then He said to them,
"With fervent desire I have desired
to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer" (Lk. 22.15).

Before I suffer.

We all believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He is God, He is part of the Triune God. But He was also the Son of Man, come to earth, to be the Passover Lamb for the remission of our sins. And He had feelings, both emotional and physical. “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4.15).

Imagine for a moment, that you have just been given the diagnosis of a terminal illness. You are longing for comfort from family and friends. You plan a meal to share with them and tell them of what is before you...to suffer. And within a few hours of your dinner, one has egregiously betrayed your friendship, and the rest leave you to suffer alone. Yes, indeed. That would be painful.

Not only did Jesus suffer all that from His friends, but His enemies tortured Him and most grievously killed Him. Why? And why did He agree to do that for us? Because He chose to.

And now, out of His deep love for us, He invites us to share in this dinner with Him to remember Him. “...do this in remembrance of Me” (Lk. 22.19).

But be careful that you do it mindfully and lovingly. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let each man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body” (1 Cor. 11.26-29).

The same “Woe” for Judas (Lk. 22.22) is a “Woe” for those of us who take the Lord’s Supper and in any way cause Jesus Christ pain. Remember, He has a fervent desire to eat this with us.

But we must honor Him and understand, as best we can, exactly what He suffered for this meal. We can share it together with Him, and then live out our lives to prove the importance of it.

*Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There’s power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o’er evil a victory win?
There’s wonderful power in the blood.*

*Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There’s power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There’s wonderful power in the blood.*

*There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.
(Lewis E. Jones, 1899)*

For reflection

1. Knowing how important the Lord’s Supper is, how should we prepare for taking it?
2. How does the Supper help us remember what Jesus did for us? How does it enrich our fellowship with Him?

3. How would you explain to a non-Christian friend why Christians observe the Lord's Supper?

Nothing can be more nourishing and satisfying to the soul, than the doctrine of Christ's making atonement for sin, and the assurance of an interest in that atonement. Therefore we do this in remembrance of what He did for us, when he died for us; and for a memorial of what we do, in joining ourselves to him in an everlasting covenant. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Luke 22.19, 20

Pray Psalm 116.10-19.

Thank the Lord for His salvation. Pray that He will grant you more of it, will loose you from any bonds of sin, and will enable you to fulfill all your commitments to Him.

Sing Psalm 116.10-19.

(Mit Freuden Zart: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Afflicted, I believe His Word, though lying men would undo me.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His blessings to me?

Salvation's cup I lift above and call upon the God of love

and pay my vows most truly.

How sweet to Him when saints depart—save me, Your servant, Savior!

From sin You loosed my wand'ring heart; I praise Your Name forever!

On You I call, my vows to pay; here in Your Presence I would stay

Your praise to offer ever.

4 Kingdom Greatness

Pray Psalm 96.1-4.

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.
For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised;
He *is* to be feared above all gods.

Sing Psalm 96.1-4.

(Mit Freuden Zart: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Sing to the Lord! O, bless His Name! All nations tell His glory!
Salvation's tidings loud proclaim; let earth rehearse His story!
For God is greatly to be praised; His throne above all gods is raised.
Fear Him and sing His glory!

Read Luke 22.1-27; meditate on verses 24-27.

Preparation

1. What were the disciples disputing?
2. How did Jesus respond?

Meditation

Jesus had just given the disciples the sacramental sign of His death and atonement, warning them that one of them was about to betray Him. All they could think about was themselves, “which of them should be the greatest?” (v. 24).

Jesus corrected their misconception about life in His Kingdom. The truly great aren't those who are served, but those who serve (vv. 25, 26). Serving others opens the spigot of God's grace to flow through us, meeting needs and reaching souls with God's love. The more this happens, the more God is given thanks and praise, and the more His glory becomes known (2 Cor. 4.15; Hab. 2.14).

This is how the Kingdom of God advances on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus, the disciples all knew, was *the* Greatest. Period. Yet here He was serving them, rather than expecting them to serve Him. He had washed their feet (Jn. 13) and served them His Supper (v. 27). This is what Kingdom greatness looks like, and it's what we should aspire to in every aspect of our lives.

The Kingdom of God is the rightside-up world of living like Jesus amid a self-centered, status-seeking age. What the world regards as the highest priority—being deferred to, served, and honored—Jesus instructs His disciples to forswear. Seek the Kingdom not by trying to be served, but by serving and giving yourself for others.

Just like Jesus did.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

The twelve people, into whom Jesus had poured the last three years of His life, were having a discussion amongst themselves after Jesus told them of His impending suffering.

We would like to think that they were asking:
What can we do to support Him in this crisis?
How can we let Him know how much we love Him?
How should we tell Him of our appreciation?
How can we show Him that we have learned much from His teaching?
What can we do to convey our desire to carry on His teachings?

Tragically, none of these things were on their minds.
So what two questions were weighing heavily upon their hearts and minds?
1. Which one of us is going to betray Him?
2. Which one of the remaining eleven of us will be the greatest?
Bonus question: Do you suppose He feels persecuted by us?

Jesus, because He is Jesus, took their hubristic questions, and continued to teach them, love them, refocus their attention, and warn them of the dangers, and the truths of their new lives in Him.

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all...The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned” (Ps. 34.19, 22).

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16.33).

“I am among you as the One who serves” (Lk. 22.27).

“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (Jn. 15.20).

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt. 5.11, 12).

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (2 Cor. 4.8-10).

God, help us to love Jesus. To serve others as He did. To care deeply about the pain we caused Him, and to think eternally about His great love for us. When we do, we will realize there is nowhere else we would rather be, and nothing we would rather be doing—in the Greatest Kingdom, serving the Greatest King.

For reflection

1. People in general, including Christians, tend to be naturally self-interested. Why is that?
2. How will you resist the temptation to live for yourself and strive for Kingdom greatness today?
3. How can believers encourage one another to seek Kingdom greatness? Whom will you encourage today?

The Lord adds to his command his own example, in order that he might persuade his disciples even more strongly. We must always remember that the servant is not greater than his master, nor is the disciple above his teacher. Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575), An Ecclesiasticall Exposition upon Saint Mathewe 20.4

Pray Psalm 96.11-13.

Whom will you serve today to advance the rule of King Jesus and to prepare for His coming? Prepare for

these opportunities in prayer.

Sing Psalm 96.11-13.

(Mit Freuden Zart: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Let heaven sing with lusty voice; let earth and sea sing sweetly!

Let fields and trees in Him rejoice, for He is coming swiftly
to judge the world in righteousness, the peoples in His faithfulness.

He comes; exalt Him greatly!

5 Kingdom Life

Pray Psalm 110.1-3.

The LORD said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
Your people *shall be* volunteers
In the day of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,
You have the dew of Your youth.

Sing Psalm 110.1-3.

(Aurelia: *The Church's One Foundation*)

“Sit by Me at My right hand,” the LORD says to my Lord,
“until I make Your foot stand on all who hate Your Word.”
From in His Church the Savior rules all His enemies;
while those who know His favor go forth the Lord to please.

Read Luke 22.1-30; meditate on verses 28-30.

Preparation

1. What did Jesus bestow on His disciples?
2. What did receiving that entail?

Meditation

The reference here to Daniel 7.13-27 is clear. Jesus receives the Kingdom upon ascending to the Father, and He bestows that Kingdom on all saints, here represented by the disciples. We mistake Jesus' intentions here if we only apply this teaching to the disciples. He would later command them to teach us everything He had revealed to them, including the teaching of these verses.

We only possess and advance the Kingdom through trials and struggle, as Daniel foresaw and as Jesus experienced (v. 28; cf. Acts 14.21, 22)). We are truly Kingdom citizens and rulers when we endure those trials without complaints, but for the sake of the Gospel and the Kingdom.

In the Kingdom we enjoy the fellowship and largesse of our King (v. 29; cf. 1 Jn. 1.3, 4), and we exercise His authority to rule for the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (v. 30). Jesus alludes to Old Testament judges and kings, whose primary duty was to oversee their communities according to the Law of God, so that blessings would abound.

In the Kingdom we show the love of Christ by serving one another and bearing up under the trials of each day without complaint. Daily eat and drink in the company of Jesus, then go forth to set your world upright according to His Word. This is life in the Kingdom of God.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

“Love covers all sins” (Prov. 10.12).

Even after all the disciples' inattention and bickering, their callous hearts and self-seeking ways, Jesus loved them. And taught them, and guided them, and gave them plans for their future.

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end” (Jn. 13.1).

And Jesus said to all His followers, “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you” (Matt. 5.44-46).

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13.34, 35).

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins’” (1 Pet. 4.8).

“Love never fails” (1 Cor. 13.8).

Jesus was not treated well by those He came to save.
He taught us to love those who do not treat us well.

We need to have His same loving thoughts, even about those who spurned His love and concern; as some will spurn our love and concern, as well.

“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials” (Lk. 22.28).
He thought the best of those who betrayed and left Him.

We are to do the same. His Holy Spirit will strengthen us to do just that.
“But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5.8).

This is Kingdom Life.

For reflection

1. Only by close, consistent, deep fellowship with Jesus can we know life in the Kingdom as He intends. Explain.
2. Should we expect our Kingdom life to be as full and fruitful as it could be, if we fail to meet with Jesus to know and love Him more? Explain.
3. What we are on the outside, throughout our daily lives, is determined by what we are on the inside, in our soul. What are you doing to make sure your soul is feeding on Jesus and showing Him to your world?

These thrones are the ability to judge through the Spirit of God, in whom those sit who have the spirit of true judgment, and that is, of course, believers. They are made into spiritual people, and of all people, they are able to judge rightly. François Lambert (1487-1530), *Commentary in Luke 22:28-29.8*

Pray Psalm 110.3-7.

Pray for the Church of our Lord Jesus, for its trials, opportunities, health, and faith. Commit yourself before the Lord to seek His Kingdom and righteousness today in all you do.

Sing Psalm 110.3-7.

(Aurelia: *The Church's One Foundation*)

Filled with the Spirit's power, in holy robes of love,

Luke 22 (1)

from early morning's hour they serve their Lord above.
Christ reigns a priest forever, the King of Righteousness
and King of Peace who ever His chosen ones will bless.

The Lord at Your right hand, *LORD*, in wrath shall shatter kings,
when judgment by His strong Word He to the nations brings.
Then, all His foes defeated, He takes His hard-won rest,
in glorious triumph seated with us, redeemed and blessed!

6 Cue the Chaff-Master

Pray Psalm 55.16-19.

As for me, I will call upon God,
And the LORD shall save me.
Evening and morning and at noon
I will pray, and cry aloud,
And He shall hear my voice.
He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle *that was* against me,
For there were many against me.
God will hear, and afflict them,
Even He who abides from of old.

Sing Psalm 55.16-19.

(Bread of Life: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*)
Lord, I will call on You, answer and save!
Noon, morning, evening too, my voice I raise.
Grant me Your peace, O Lord; answer my foes!
All who reject God's Word He overthrows.

Read Luke 22.1-34; meditate on verses 31-34.

Preparation

1. Of what did Jesus warn Peter?
2. How did Peter reply?

Meditation

Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith would not “be eclipsed”, as the Greek has it. Eclipsed by what? By the darkness of soul that yet remained in him—a darkness Jesus intended to surface and remove.

Just as happens when wheat is sifted. In the sifter, the good flour falls through to the bowl, while any hidden chaff is exposed and thrown out. Jesus knew that spiritual chaff was hiding in Peter’s soul—the chaff of self-reliance (v. 33). For Peter to fulfill the calling Jesus had appointed to him, that chaff would have to be removed.

But how best to do this?

Jesus determined to call in the chaff-master, whom He had bound and chained (Matt. 4.1-11; 12.22-29), to do the chaff-raising for Him. Satan had been begging for a go at Peter, for he well knew the role Jesus had appointed for him (Matt. 16.18). Satan wished to frustrate that plan, but Jesus intended to use the chaff-master for His own purposes.

In *City of God*, Augustine explained how Satan and other spiritual powers can only do what the Lord Himself assigns them: “For they are in power, but even as wicked men upon earth are, so that they cannot do what they please, but are mere ministers to His ordinance, whose judgments no man can either fully comprehend or reprehend justly.” Satan would expose Peter’s sinful self-reliance, thus taking him another step along the path of being ready for the calling that awaited him after he returned to Jesus (v. 32).

Jesus remained sovereign over all the events of His life, and of the lives of His disciples as well.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

“But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail...” (Lk. 22.32).

Jesus was warning and comforting Peter—warning that there was the potential of losing his faith; comforting in the positive by saying, “when you have returned to Me” (Lk. 22.32).

And what was he supposed to do when he returned? “Strengthen your brethren” (Lk. 22.32). A lot of Peter’s life was covered in that one sentence.

Jesus was telling him, as God told the Israelite captives taken to Babylon, that there is always hope after a good sifting. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer. 29.11).

The difference in our brother Peter, before and after being filled with the Holy Spirit, is astonishing. His change was mirrored in the words of Paul to Timothy: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1.7).

Jesus’ words of warning fall next upon us: Mind how you go. Satan wants to trip you up. But I pray for you in the same way that I prayed for My disciples, that you will have unfailing faith. “I do not pray for these alone, but for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (Jn. 17.20, 21).

The mandate now is the same as to Peter: “Strengthen your brethren”; and through your obedience to Jesus and love for others “the world may believe” that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The strength to live out this mandate? The same Strength that changed Peter—being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1.8).

And the words of encouragement from Peter to those who will believe in Jesus through his testimony? “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love...receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” (1 Pet. 1.3-9).

The answer to Jesus’ prayer for us.

For reflection

1. We all need “sifting” from time to time. How would you do this in prayer? What would it be like?
2. We are all too prone to rely on ourselves rather than the Lord. How can you know when you’re beginning to be like Peter, so all-self-confident that you would deny the Lord’s Word?
3. Read Ephesians 5.18-21. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? How would you seek that filling?

*Faith in the elect is like the sun in the heavens, which is hidden and darkened for a time with clouds but not actually extinguished. For affections, errors and sins are like black clouds bringing darkness, but the sun of our faith is confirmed and inflamed again by the merit of our intercessor in such a way that with firm and bright beams it eventually puts away those clouds and brings a clear conscience. Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575), *An Ecclesiasticall Exposition upon Saint Luke 22.10**

Pray Psalm 55.1-3, 20-23.

As you think about the day ahead, what temptations or trials do you anticipate? Prepare for them now in prayer.

Sing Psalm 55.1-3, 20-23.

(Bread of Life: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*)

Hear now my prayer, O Lord, hide not from me.

Answer me by Your Word and set me free!

Wicked men sore oppress; restless am I.

Lord, ease my soul's distress and hear my cry!

Many assail, O Lord, many betray.

See how they draw their sword across my way.

Take up my burden, Lord; strengthen and bless!

Let judgment by Your Word their souls distress.

7 Total Control

Pray Psalm 22.23-25.

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;
But when He cried to Him, He heard.
My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly;
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

Sing Psalm 22.23-25.

(Darwall: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*)

All you who fear the Lord, now praise His holy Name!
You children of His glorious Word, declare His fame!
We stand in awe of our eternal God, and on His mercy call.

For He has not despised the anguish of our King,
nor from Him hid His eyes, Who knew such suffering.
Let praise arise from all who love and serve the Ruler of the skies!

Read Luke 22,1-34; meditate on verses 7-13.

Preparation

1. What did Jesus say would happen?
2. What happened?

Meditation.

It is the evening of His arrest, the day before His crucifixion, and the last day of Jesus' earthly life.

And He is in total control of everything. No wonder He can face what lies ahead of Him with courage, confidence, peace, and even joy (Ps. 22.21-31; Heb. 12.1-3).

Jesus controls all temporal circumstances, everything that happens in time. We see that in the arrangements made here for the “furnished upper room”. That the room was reserved, the man carrying the water would be right where the disciples would meet him, and that everything needed to prepare for the meal would be ready to hand—even the conspiring and plotting going on in the background (vv. 1-6)—all this was under Jesus' sovereign control. Nothing surprises Jesus or catches Him off guard.

We also see that Jesus is in control of the spiritual world. He allowed Satan to enter Judas, and He would permit him to “sift” Peter (vv. 3, 31). Nothing happens in any realm that Jesus does not control. Already the angel was being prepared who would meet the women at the grave to announce the resurrection of the Lord. Was he practicing his lines? I doubt it. From the day of his creation that angel had been awaiting the moment when, according to the Word of the Lord, he would herald the new day.

We see that Jesus controls the future as well. He knew that His disciples would have many occasions to take His Supper (v. 19). He had prepared the fate of him who would betray Him (v. 22). He controlled the timing of His Kingdom gift (v. 29). He knew that Peter would return to Him after his sifting, and that he would take

up the work appointed to him (v. 32: “when”, not “if”).

Jesus is Lord of all things, all people, all events, all outcomes, and all things else. He demonstrated that sovereignty by orchestrating all the events that led to the cross, and He continues exercising that total control for the building of His Church, the progress of His Kingdom, and the glory of His Father and ours.

Treasures Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared” (Ex. 23.20).

“...if it were not so, I would have told you” (Jn. 14.2).

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
(Chisholm/Runyan, 1923)*

“Total Control.”

For reflection

1. Why is it important to confess Jesus not only as Savior but also as Lord?
2. Jesus does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Why should we be encouraged by this?
3. How do you expect Jesus to be sovereignly at work on your behalf today?

Those who go upon Christ’s word, need not fear disappointment. According to the orders given them, the disciples got all ready for the Passover. Jesus bids this Passover welcome. He desired it, though he knew his sufferings would follow, because it was in order to his Father’s glory and man’s redemption. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Luke 22.7-18

Pray Psalm 22.26-28.

Thank the Lord, that He controls all things, does all things well, and works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Pray that you may have firm confidence in His sovereign care throughout the day.

Sing Psalm 22.26-28.

(Darwall: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*)

Then all the poor shall eat and praise with us the Lord.
Forever we His praise repeat and trust His Word.
Praise God above, all you who keep His vows and who His mercies love!

All nations shall repent and hasten to the Lord.
All those to whom His truth is sent shall praise His Word.
The Lord is King! His sovereign rule on high now we His people sing!

Luke 22 (1)

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

1. How do we see that Jesus was in control of temporal circumstances?
2. How do we see that Jesus was in control of the spiritual world?
3. How do we see that Jesus is in control of the future?
4. How should knowing Jesus thus controls all things encourage us in our walk with and work for Him?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from our study of Luke 22.1-34?

For prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

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