



July 12, 2020
Luke 22:1-6

SCRIPTURE

22 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

COMMENTARY

22:1. By NT times, the Festival of Unleavened Bread and Passover had come to be almost interchangeable ideas. For the Jews, Passover was a meal commemorating the night the angel of death “passed over” those Jewish homes in Egypt whose doorposts were covered by the blood of a Passover lamb (Ex 12:1-14; Lv 23:5). “Unleavened Bread” was a week-long feast immediately following Passover that commemorated the exodus (Ex 12:14-20; Lv 23:6-8). These feasts were celebrated during our months of March or April.

22:2-6. The religious leaders were committed to finding a way to put Jesus to death because they feared His popularity among the people. The perfect opportunity presented itself when Judas, motivated by Satanic influence and money, agreed to betray Jesus.

MAIN POINT

True faith is evidenced not only by outward appearances but by the motives of the heart.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever known someone who by all accounts was a strong Christian but ended up leaving the faith? What happened? Were there any warning signs that you failed to recognize?

What do you think motivated this person to leave the faith?

What motives do you think lie at the heart of those who abandon Jesus and His teachings?

Scripture tells us that “nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:28-29). This tells us that it is impossible for anyone to lose their salvation. Those who abandon Christ and His teachings never truly belonged to Him in the first place. In Luke 22, we learn that the religious leaders were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus, and one of His own disciples was ready and willing to help them. Satan motivated Judas, and Judas betrayed Jesus because his relationship with Jesus was always more about himself than it was about Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- Ask a volunteer to read Luke 22:1-2.

What do you know about the Passover celebration?

Considering the nature of the Passover celebration, why were the religious leaders afraid of the people this time? What do you imagine they feared might happen?

What were they hoping to accomplish by getting rid of Jesus?

At the annual Passover feast, Jerusalem was filled with people who were commemorating the most important moment from their history. Their celebrations centered around the time when the angel of death “passed over” the Jewish homes in Egypt, homes where doorposts were covered by the blood of a Passover lamb and God saved them from captivity. As they celebrated their past, they also looked expectantly

toward the future coming of the Messiah. The religious leaders weren't afraid of God, but they were afraid of a potential uprising among the people. They wanted to squash any movement that supported Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

- Ask a volunteer to read Luke 22:3-6.

What does it mean that “Satan entered Judas”? Does this mean that Judas was simply a pawn in the spiritual realm, or did he have choice in the matter?

What possible motives might have caused Judas to seek out the religious leaders and betray Jesus? What did this indicate about the condition of his heart?

Do you think any of the disciples suspected that Judas would be the one to betray Jesus? Why or why not?

Compare Jesus' rebuke to the Pharisees in Luke 11:39-41 with Judas's relationship with Jesus. What might Judas have neglected that resulted in his heart being far from Jesus?

The only significant sign we see in Scripture of Judas's heart not being in the right place was when he questioned Mary of Bethany's decision to anoint Jesus' feet with costly perfume (John 12:4-8). It should be noted, however, that this was not the only time Jesus' disciples questioned His teaching and actions (Mark 8–10). There are very few outward signs recorded in Scripture that Judas would be the one to betray Jesus. This should not surprise us; Jesus pointed out that, much like Judas, the Pharisees looked like faithful followers of God on the outside and yet inside were full of greed and wickedness. What matters before God, therefore, is not first and foremost our outward behavior. We can fool people with our actions for a time. What matters is the condition of our hearts. A saving encounter with Jesus results in a transformed heart—one that ceases to live for self and surrenders to the glory of God and the mission of Christ.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

In what areas of your life are you most prone to selfish thinking and decision making? What might it look like for you to begin dying to self and surrendering to Christ in that area of your life?

How might we as a group encourage one another and hold one another accountable to daily dying to self and surrendering to Christ?

What is one step you could take this week to shift your expectations away from self and to Christ and His mission?

PRAYER

Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and rise again for our justification. Pray that God would expose any selfishness in our hearts that we need to repent from. Ask Him to help us guard our hearts against bitterness toward God because of unmet expectations. Pray that we would help each other and encourage each other to take the necessary steps to die to self and surrender to Christ this week.