



July 26, 2020
Luke 22:21-38

SCRIPTURE

²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" ²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

³³ But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

³⁴ Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

³⁵ Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

“Nothing,” they answered.

³⁶ He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷ It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’^[a]; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

³⁸ The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That’s enough!” he replied.

COMMENTARY

22:21-22 Judas was guilty as the one betraying Jesus (vv. 3-6), yet it remains the case that his actions were determined (planned, ordained) by God as part of the plan that would culminate in Jesus’ crucifixion (Ac 2:23).

22:23-24 Luke is tenacious and honest about the immaturity of the disciples. After so great a spiritual experience as the Passover meal, conducted by the Lord Himself, they argued over who was greatest among them. Had they misunderstood everything?

22:25-27 Greatness in the world is based on power and public recognition, but Christ taught that spiritual greatness requires humility and self-sacrifice. Jesus is our example because He came among us as the One who serves.

22:28-30 Because the apostles stood by Jesus in His trials, they would be rewarded by the privileges of leadership in the coming kingdom, including close fellowship with the King and rulership over eschatological Israel (Mt 19:28).

22:31-34 In these verses Jesus addressed Simon Peter as the leader of the apostles and their spokesman. The plural you indicates Satan wanted to sift all the apostles like wheat, a rough action that symbolizes tempting them to spiritual ruin. Peter protested that nothing would cause him to deny Jesus, but Jesus knew better.

22:35-38 Because of the rejection they would face, Jesus emphasized that the apostles must prepare to take care of their own needs (money-bag, traveling bag) and protect themselves physically (a sword). By arming themselves, Jesus’ apostles unintentionally paved the way for Jesus to fulfill the outlaws prophecy of Isa 53:12. Jesus’ call for a sword was likely only figurative, but the apostles responded that they had two swords among them.

MAIN POINT

We will all fail Jesus, but He is ready to forgive when we are ready to repent.

INTRODUCTION

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

As a child did you ever feel betrayed by a friend? What happened? How did you respond?

How do you view betrayal and forgiveness differently now than you did when you were a child?

In today's passage we will see Jesus interact with two men who betrayed Him. Judas forsook Jesus and eventually killed himself. Peter denied Christ, but He repented and was welcomed back into fellowship Him. We will all betray Jesus in some way, but He is ready to forgive when we are ready to repent.

UNDERSTANDING

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

- **Have a volunteer read Luke 22:21-23.**

Jesus told them a betrayer was in their midst. If it were not already, it was clear at this point that Christ was talking about serious matters. Christ's death—an act of unparalleled service and humility—was imminent. In Matthew's Gospel, the betrayer is identified as Judas (see Matt. 26:20-25). Jesus knew Judas's heart and the role the traitor would play in bringing about His death.

Read Luke 22:1-6.

Why would Judas reject the service of Jesus and betray Him?

What can we learn about ourselves and our relationship with God through Judas?

We do wonder how one walked with Jesus for approximately three years, heard His teachings and saw His miracles, yet never believed in Him as God's Son. John 3:19 tells us what lay behind unbelief, both then and now: "The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil." Judas never truly repented of his thievery and his greed, which Paul defined as a form of idolatry (see Col. 3:5). Like the rich young ruler, Judas chose money rather than God.

- **Have a volunteer read Luke 22:24-30.**

During His earthly ministry, Jesus taught the disciples about the kingdom of God and what it looks like to be a part of that kingdom. In verses 28-30, Jesus told them about the future, completed kingdom, in which they would eat and drink at His table and be seated upon thrones.

**Why would it have been hard for the disciples to grasp the kingdom of God fully?
Why is it hard for us?**

In what areas of your life do you easily see God's kingdom at work? Where would you like to see Him more?

- **Have a volunteer read Luke 22:31-38.**

In that upstairs room with Jesus and His disciples, unseen spiritual forces of darkness hovered. The struggle between good and evil, between the holy and the profane, is never just a matter of flesh and blood. Jesus offered Peter a lesson that night that all believers need to take to heart and apply.

How must Peter have felt in this moment?

What was Jesus trying to impress on Peter (vv. 31-32)?

Jesus surely got Peter's attention by the double address, "Simon, Simon." Jesus had used the same means earlier to get Martha's attention (see Luke 10:41). Was Simon alarmed to learn that a supernatural tug of war centered on him? On one hand prowled the enemy, Satan. He would soon attack Peter and the other disciples (the Greek word translated you in verse 31 is plural). Satan wanted to ruin their faith and their testimony. He wanted them to stumble and fail. On the other hand was the Lord Jesus. He had already prayed for Peter (the Greek word translated you in verse 32 is singular). He knew that the enemy's main strategy is to destroy faith.

Perhaps you have never denied that you know Jesus, as Peter did. But you can be sure you have been the subject of the devil's temptation. Satan wants you to fail. He wants your witness for Christ to be destroyed. But Christ intercedes and helps His followers, even when they fail. He is more powerful than the devil. Not only that, He will also enable believers, restored to fellowship with Him, to strengthen one another.

APPLICATION

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

What traditions or events do you observe to remind you of God's work in your life?

In what ways can you seek to remember significant things He has done?

How can participation in the Lord's Supper continue to stir gratitude in you for the work of Christ?

Discuss some different ways people in your group prepare spiritually and mentally for the Lord's Supper, and encourage your group members to try something new the next time you share in the Lord's Supper.

In what ways have you been tempted to betray Christ this week through disobedience?

Take time today to reflect on His sacrifice and confess your sin.

PRAYER

Begin today's prayer time by asking for specific requests. Pray specifically for group members' requests, and that God would provide daily reminders of His incredible sacrifice for us. Pray that the Lord's Supper and Christ's sacrifice would have new meaning in each of our lives.