



WEEKLY STUDY

The Last Days of Jesus - Week Two

This week we will look at a long passage from Luke 22. There are themes of trust and betrayal, darkness and light, remembrance and future hope. It is all a part of God's story of salvation, and as much as in any other part of the story, we can imagine ourselves among the disciples. When so much is happening and about to happen around Jesus, he does not neglect to remember the past work of God. They prepare and then stop at the Passover table. They walked through the story of God's rescue. And then Jesus projected that story into the events that were about to unfold in Jerusalem. I'll be praying that your prayerful study of the Scripture this week will lead you to see how the salvation story extends to your life in 2025 as well.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 22.1-6 (ESV)

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

- Luke is the only gospel writer who explicitly says that *Satan entered Judas* leading to his betrayal of Jesus. This seems to point out that Satan had continued to lurk around in between the failed temptation of Jesus in the wilderness ([Luke 4.1-13](#)) and this last week of Jesus' life on earth. In fact, in Luke 4, we read that Satan left Jesus until an *opportune time*. I personally try not to fixate

too much on Satan in the day to day, but I also don't want to be naive to his ability to manipulate the circumstances around me. Have you ever felt that Satan might be trying to keep you from God's purpose? Do you believe that God's purposes can be realized in spite of or even through Satan's attempts to thwart them?

- **Prayer Prompt: For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3.17)**
- *Almighty God, open my eyes to the ways evil seeks to separate me from you. I want to be an instrument for what is good and right and true. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 22.7-13 (ESV)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."⁹ They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?"¹⁰ He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there."¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

- Jesus was paying attention to the schedule and sticking to the religious observances that were central to the festivities in Jerusalem. He set in motion the preparations for the Passover, but in many ways, the plans seem to have already been determined. Sometimes the direction we get from God seems oddly specific ("a man carrying a jar of water will meet you..."). Have you ever seemed to receive detailed instructions from God? Are you able to put your trust in God even when the details don't make sense to you?
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- **Prayer Prompt: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6.8)**
- *Jesus, show me the way to go today. Guide me to the right person at the right time. Increase my faith to follow you. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 22.14-23 (ESV)

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

- The disciples hadn't quite grasped the significance of this particular Passover. The remembrance of God's acts to bring His people out of slavery would set the stage for His acts of redemption through Jesus. Jesus was introducing a new covenant— one that would be marked by his own suffering and then entrance into the kingdom of God. The Passover was a meal that recalled salvation from past suffering and here, Jesus was continuing to point to suffering that was to come. The tone of this meal was certainly different for the disciples, especially after Jesus revealed that his betrayer was one of them. Can you imagine what feelings you would have from your front row seat to salvation history? Hope? Fear? Disgust? Hunger? Sit with those feelings as you picture yourself at the table with Jesus.
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- **Prayer Prompt: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26.26)**
- *Oh God, the lengths to which you have repeatedly gone to bring redemption to this broken world reveal your heart for your people. Save us God! Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 22.24-30 (ESV)

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸ "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- Jesus redefines greatness. Those who are truly great will not lord it over others. Instead, to be great like Jesus requires serving like Jesus. The seat of servant leadership will become a seat at

Jesus' kingdom table. This definition of greatness is at odds with what we see in this world on a daily basis. The powerful in our time use their authority to fight for more power. Jesus could have used his divine power to push the squabbling disciples down. Instead, he demonstrated a better way. What examples of servant leadership do you see today? Where are you tempted to exercise worldly authority in ways that serve you instead of others?

- **Prayer Prompt: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12.2)**
- *God, teach me to follow the ways of Jesus. I long to sit at his heavenly banquet table, and to serve in his kingdom. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 22.31-34 (ESV)

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

- Jesus told his eager disciple Peter that Satan had been at work to separate him from his Lord. Jesus had prayed for an increasing faith—strong enough to allow Peter to overcome all opposition. Peter had the desire, but not yet the strength of faith, to follow Jesus to the cross. We all know what it is like to speak or think out of bravado that we would do the hard thing for the sake of our faith. Do you relate to Peter, both in his desire to follow Jesus and in his denial of Jesus? Have you ever considered that Jesus prays for you—that your faith may not fail? Allow yourself to imagine Jesus' words prayed over you. Record some of those words below.
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- **Prayer Prompt: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17.20-21)**
- *Jesus, my Savior, pray for me. Pray that I may have the strength of faith that will help the world to believe in you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 22.35-38(ESV)

And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing."³⁶ He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one."³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."³⁸ And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

- This passage can be difficult to understand. Jesus reminded his disciples of the provision they had when he sent them out (the 72) without money or sandals. They lacked nothing. It seemed that a time was coming when that would be true again, but for now, he told them to pick up what they had. The two swords that Jesus said were "enough" would never defeat the crowds and soldiers who would soon surround Jesus. Two were enough because the battle that was ahead would never be won by swords. Have you ever experienced a season when it appeared that you had nothing, but in reality, you had all you needed? When has God provided for you? What would it take for you to be able to answer the question, "did you lack anything?" with the response of the disciples, "nothing"?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.19)**
- *God, your provisions are more than enough. Equip me with exactly what I need to fulfill your purpose today. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

In Pastor Gary's message this week, we heard these three key points from the opening verses of Luke 22:

1. Trials strengthen us.
 - a. What trials have you faced that have also given you strength?
2. Failure does not have to define us.
 - a. Can you think of a person or group of people who are defined by failure?
 - b. Who has been defined by their ability to overcome a failure? You?
3. Jesus prays for us.
 - a. In our weakness he is strong. Has Jesus shown up for you in a moment of weakness?
 - b. Jesus will rise up in us. Can you imagine your name on Jesus' prayer list? What specifically would you ask him to pray for?