



The Gospel of Luke



Week 24 **LEADER** Discussion Questions Week of 3/19/23

Text: Luke 22:1-30

Icebreaker: What's the most significant meal you've had with someone? What was the occasion?

1. Look at verses 1-6 where Luke describes the plotting of those who are opposed to Jesus. How would you characterize their actions?

We might say that the religious leaders were secretive and calculating as they were "seeking how to put him to death" but were fearful of the people. They were determined to satisfy their objective. They were also incredibly hypocritical as they were both preparing to remember and celebrate God's deliverance during the Exodus even as they plotted how to kill the one who was about to bring the ultimate deliverance.

Application: Do you see any general patterns here about how sin often operates?

Sin often operates in ways that are deceptive, secretive, and scheming. There can be a determination involved as well as people will do whatever is necessary to realize the desire behind the sin. It also often involves great hypocrisy and deception as we appear one way on the outside but inwardly are entangled in something very different.

2. As we read on through verse 13, who's really in charge of what's happening—the religious leaders or Jesus? What do you see in the text that leads you to this answer?

The religious leaders have an objective in mind but appear powerless to carry it out "for they feared the people." It's only when "Satan entered into Judas" that they can carry out a plan. Meanwhile, Jesus expresses minute details (e.g., "a man carrying a jar of water will meet you...") in his instructions to the disciples. Events unfold exactly as Jesus states, while the religious leaders must be handed an opportunity in the form of Judas's spiritual deception that will allow them to get what they desire.

Application: What do you see in these verses that can strengthen our confidence in Jesus's control over events in our lives today?

3. Verses 14-23 describe the meal. What instructions does Jesus give the disciples and what would you say was the overall purpose of this Last Supper meal?

Jesus tells them to divide the drink of the cup as well as the bread, giving a picture of their unity (one "cup" and on "body") as they drink and eat from the same sources. In addition, this is something they are to do "in remembrance" of Jesus. The cup symbolizes "the new covenant in my blood," which points to the deep significance of what Jesus is establishing. This meal depicts God's new work that supersedes the old covenant established through Moses in Exodus 19. That was also a covenant that was made by blood, but of animals. Here, Jesus is establishing this new covenant by means of his own

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blood and body. Altogether, it is meant to cause the disciples to remember Jesus, but also to point ahead “until the kingdom of God comes” when Jesus will partake of this meal again.

Application: Reflect on your own experience of the Lord’s Supper or Communion. Is there anything in this passage that challenges how you’ve thought about it or that you’d like to be more mindful of the next time you take the bread and cup?

4. Look at verses 24-27. According to Jesus, what’s the difference between how leaders typically operate in our world and how a disciple is supposed to lead?

Leaders often exert their authority over others at will and who are thought of as people who are owed allegiance based on their great leadership and contributions to those under them. These leaders take credit for the great things that happen around them. In contrast, Jesus completely blows up this mindset in his description of a leader as a servant. For a picture of what this looks like, you might want to turn to John 13 where Jesus washes his disciples’ feet.

Application: Do you see yourself as a leader? Why or why not?

Some resist this label, likely because of how “loaded” the word can be in our society. At Calvary, we desire people to see themselves as the kind of leaders Jesus describes—those who are quick to serve others with humility and gratitude for God’s many blessings.

Application: What does it look like—or what *could* it look like—for you to be “among [others] as the one who serves” (v. 27) in areas of your life where you have some form of influence?

5. Read verses 28-30. What does verse 28 suggest about why Jesus is assigning the disciples positions in his coming kingdom? What kind of trials have they faced as they’ve followed Jesus?

Jesus commends them for being “those who have stayed with me in my trials.” They’ve been faithful in following him even as Jesus has led them into situations that exposed them to ridicule, misunderstanding, physical discomfort, etc. We can’t miss the irony of this, though, given what immediately follows these verses (spoiler alert). Ultimately, they will return and “stay with Jesus” through the power of his abiding Spirit in them.

Application: Have you faced a trial that was related to following Jesus? If so, what happened? What kind of practices, habits, or commitments can we make to help us “stay with Jesus” when trials come?