

Lesson 21

CHAPTER 22 & 23, A NEW COVENANT

The shadow of darkness is rapidly overtaking Jesus and his trusted disciples. It is time to prepare for the Passover celebration. During this time in first century Jerusalem, the city would swell with Jewish pilgrims coming from throughout the known world. Jesus had arranged for this special Passover meal in advance because he knew it would be his last on earth.

1. Read Luke 22:1-23. What is the new covenant that Jesus is enacting? Are all the disciples offered the bread and wine? What does it tell you that Judas Iscariot was offered this new covenant along with the other disciples? Did Judas have a choice to not betray Jesus?

2. Read Luke 22:24-30. What do you notice about the attitude of the disciples? Why do you think they don't get it? What will it take for them to grasp the reality of Jesus? Hint: See Acts 2.

It's a battle out there for the souls of God's people. Different people had different responses to Jesus then just as they do today. Satan is determined to stop the disciples before they even begin.

3. In Luke 22:31-38, who has control over the strategies of Satan? How do you see Jesus instructing his disciples for their future vocation? How does this compare to Ephesians 6:10-18?

4. The greatest battle is the one Jesus fought at Gethsemane. Read Luke 22:39-53 with Matthew 26:36-46, and Mark 14:32-42. What details do you notice about the "battle" in the Garden?

5. According to the end of Luke 22:53 what is happening in the spiritual realm? How do you see this statement played out in the rest of Luke 22- 23:1-14? Did Pontus Pilate or Herod think Jesus was guilty?

6. The rest of Luke 23 focuses on two other men, Barabbas, and Simon of Cyrene. What are their stories?

7. In the rest of Luke 23 what are the different reactions to Jesus at the cross?

APPLICATION: Barabbas was guilty and yet Jesus took his place on the cross. Our guilt may not be as apparent as Barabbas but Jesus' taking our place at the cross is just as real. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for his saving grace and then forgive yourself. To not forgive ourselves is to dilute the value of the blood Jesus willingly spent for our sins. Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross. How can you help Jesus by shouldering your cross daily?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, at times we feel unworthy of the love and sacrifice of Jesus. At times we must battle against the pulls of this world. Give us the wisdom to see those areas where we have not been totally sold out to Jesus. Holy Jesus, please pray for us as you prayed for Peter. It is only then that we will be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy and be able to strengthen our brothers and sisters in return. We stand ready to carry our cross daily and follow wherever you may lead. We praise you, Father, for your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.