

Luke 22:39-71

The Road to the Cross

Image Church // Inverted Kingdom Vol. 2 / Road to the Cross: Wk. 11

Intro:

Image Family!

If you have your Bible, turn to Luke 22...

Setup:

- Jesus is in Jerusalem... It's holy week... Festival that leads to the Passover...
- Jesus just took the Passover with His disciples and told them this meal pointed to Him...
- Jesus revealed that one among them would betray Him...
- Greatness comes through service... *Which Jesus will model...*
- Jesus tells Peter that He's going to waver but will not abandon his faith because He's interceded for Him...
- And then Jesus says the time is coming when they're going to be on their own for a few days because Jesus has to go and fulfill His purpose...

Big night! Well, they wrap up dinner that night, and they head to a familiar place...

This is where we'll pick up in verse 39:

Luke 22:39-71

³⁹ He went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he told them, "Pray that you may not fall into temptation."

What is Jesus talking about... Remember, Satan has sifted Judas, and he's asked to sift Peter...

There's a lurking **temptation** for them to walk away from Jesus, to not hold on in faith...

- **BTW:** Have you ever been there? Have you ever felt tempted to walk away from Jesus? Have you ever felt tempted to let go of your faith?

I think it's powerful here that Jesus doesn't tell them to pray that the temptation will not come, He says: pray that **when it does come, you don't fall into it!**¹

What Jesus shows us that temptations are part of the Christian life...

- **Temptations are not sinful. What's sinful is when we act on them...**

And then we see Jesus point them to **prayer...** We have seen a theme of prayer in Luke and the power attached to it...

What Jesus shows us is that **prayer gives us the ability to press through temptation...**

- Jesus modeled this: He spent 40 days in the desert praying and fasting leading up to when He was tempted...

God's given us prayer as a means to lean into His power... It's an act of dependence where we call on Him to do what we can't...

- **Prayer & faith** go hand-in-hand- **prayer is an act of faith that fuels our faith**, helping us endure!

Prayer is a tool that God's given us that's necessary for the Xian life!

Example: go to build a house, and you have all the tools there on site, but you choose not to use the **level and the speed square (know what that is? It's a triangle that helps you keep things square)**. **Joke:** my dad would ask for the square...

- You can build a house without those two things... The same is true when it comes to prayer... We have to have it!

¹ Shane Shadix, *The Mount of Olives*.

Verse 41:

⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to pray, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. *This is such a powerful moment.*

There is a terminology called the **Hypostatic union**... Everything it means to be God Jesus is, at the same time, everything that it means to be human Jesus is... Jesus is fully human and fully divine... the **Hypostatic union** is the oneness of these two realities...

What we see here is both the **humanity** of Christ and the **divinity** of Christ...

Jesus **KNEW** what was ahead of Him, not only in the physical crucifixion, which is horrific and gruesome but in addition to that, having to experience the full wrath of God...

- Jesus not only physically died in our place, but He also took on the wrath of God in our place... It was unleashed on Him...

And what **is expressed here is the humanity of Jesus**; everything *in his human flesh wanted to flee the impending physical torture of crucifixion. And He groaned in agony at the far greater spiritual torture of being forsaken by his Father.* ²

In the most real way, here is what this points to, Jesus (who is fully God) entered into our pain and suffering, and not only did He enter into it, He experienced our pain and suffering in every way to the greatest degree...

- Emotionally, physically and spiritually... He experienced it all...
- He is in agony and anguish over what awaits Him...
- This is raw and real...

² Jon Bloom, *Not my will be done*. April 2, 2015.

And the reason this is so powerful is that it shows us just how much Jesus can identify with our pain and suffering... Jesus was not outside of our humanity... He embodied it to the fullest degree...

- We have a Savior who can identify with our pain!
- He's not a Savior that says deal with it, He can say, I've been there!
- ***I've endured it so that one day you don't have to!***

What I also want you to see here is how raw and real Jesus is, I want you to see His **agony** in the face of suffering...

- And what I want you to understand is that if this is ok for Jesus to do, then it's ok for you to do as well!

We don't have to be heroic in the face of suffering, acting like everything is good and that we're fine... ³

- Listen, being tough and unemotional through suffering is not the mark of a strong Christian... It's actually an indicator that there's a problem...
- Jesus doesn't model stoic toughness, He models authenticity before God...

*Jesus had the perfect faith, He had the perfect trust, He even knew the plan, but it wasn't absent of emotion in the midst of suffering...

- Jesus is in extreme distress, He's in intense sorrow... Sweat like drops of blood...
- HE didn't try to hide them, He walked in them...

I think we feel like God can't handle it if we do this, or that it compromises our faith, or that it's a sign of weakness...

- Jesus breaks all of that down for us here...

God created us as emotional beings, I think if we learned how to walk in them before God it would actually take us deeper in our relationship with Him...

- Notice how it led Jesus to pray more fervently!

³ Shane Shadix, *The Mount of Olives*.

We got to stop being so ridged as Christians and start seeing this for what it is, a relationship with God where we can be authentic in it!

Now, there's something else I want you to see here... I told you that we see both the **humanity** of Christ and the **divinity** of Christ...

Let me show you the **divinity** of Christ...

We see the divinity of Christ through Jesus' faithful and total submission to the will of God...

Jesus prayed for and would act in accordance with the will of God...

See, **unlike humanity, Jesus would embrace perfect obedience to God's will...**

Jesus made the choice to obey even in the face of death, He chose to *go to the cross and to suffer in our place*, taking on the wrath of God in our place as the greatest act of *service and sacrifice...*

Paul would bring all of this together for us in **Philippians 2:6-8...**

[Jesus] ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. [or grasped]

⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity.

And when he had come as a man,

⁸ he humbled himself by **becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.**

The beauty of what we see here in this moment in the garden is **Jesus in our place...**

- His perfect life in our place...
- His sacrificial death in our place...

God came down as one of us, entering into our pain and experiencing our pain in order to ultimately free us from the source of our pain... Sin...

God would become like one of us, to do what none of us could ever do... This is the beauty behind the incredible nature of Jesus, who was both **fully human** and **fully God!**

Verse 45:

⁴⁵ When he got up from prayer and came to the disciples, he found them sleeping, exhausted from their grief. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray, so that you won't fall into temptation."

2 quick things: notice the second warning from Jesus shows the importance of prayer... **John Piper:** *Prayer is a wartime walkie-talkie... We are at war... Pray that you don't fall into temptation...*

The other thing that we see here is the disciple's lack of faithfulness in contrast to Jesus' perfect faithfulness... Jesus is perfectly obedient to the will of God...

Verse 47: ⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a mob came, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them.

Judas shows up at a place where he had been often before with Jesus and the others... This is how well he knew Jesus... He knew where He would be...

- **Participated in the things of Jesus but faith to hold on in faith to the person of Jesus!**
- A warning that I want you to hear again: religious activity is not the same as saving faith...
 - Saving faith changes you, shapes you, and endures to the end...

He came near Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Judas, who was a friend of Jesus, who had followed Him and done ministry with Him, turns His back on Jesus, betraying Him with a kiss... Of all things, he takes a gesture that symbolized deep friendship and uses it for betrayal...

But I think the crazier part in all of this is that Jesus knew this was going to happen... He Choose Judas as one of the 12, knowing this would be the outcome...

- This was not a plot twist that caught Jesus off guard...
- This was all woven into the fabric of God's redemptive plan... We see that explicitly in **Acts 4:27-28**...

And what we see in this is that God works through sin and brokenness to bring about something beautiful... ⁴

Look at the power and the control of God... That **He works despite of sin, and He even through sin to bring about His perfect plan**...

Which means that even if it might seem like God's not at work and evil is prevailing, God is still very much in control and very much at work!... *That's exactly what we're seeing unfold here*...

*There's something else here that I think applies on a deeply personal level...

In the same way that God uses the sin of Judas to bring about something beautiful through Christ, **God can also use the sin in your life to bring about something beautiful in you**...⁵

This is what's so incredible about the redeeming God of the bible!

- That even the bad can be redeemed for good...
- **Romans 8:28**...
 - **V. 29:** For the purpose of being conformed into the Image of Christ!

⁴ Some thoughts in this section attributed to John Piper, *Why did Jesus choose Judas?* March 5, 2021.

⁵ This concept comes from John Piper, *Spectacular Sins*.

God is a God that is always weaving together beauty from what seems like ashes for the sake of His glory... **This is the story of the Bible!**

Verse 49: ⁴⁹ When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ Then one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus responded, "**No more of this!**" And touching his ear, he healed him.

Now, this is just downright crazy right here... First of all, the Disciples are feeling the moment- they are ready to rumble... *Jesus, should we throw down?!?*

And then one of them, who John tells us, is Peter, jumps the gun, classic Peter, and whips out his sword and cuts off a dude's **right ear**... **BTW:** Notice the detail from Doctor Luke... Got to appreciate it...

Peter, man, what a guy!

But then it gets even crazier... Jesus reaches out and touches the servant's ear and heals him... *Ear cut off on the ground- Jesus Heals it!*

My question is, what was this guy thinking that just got his ear healed?!?

- *Change sides? Have a discussion about what just happened??*
- Instead, the servant stays true to his side, which is crazy!
- Shows us a hard reality that even when people see the hand of God, there are those that will still choose to reject it...

Verse 52: ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "**Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal?**" ⁵³ **Every day while I was with you in the temple, you never laid a hand on me. But this is your hour—and the dominion of darkness.**"

Jesus is like, really guys?

But everything that's happening here is feeding this moment, it's night, evil is at work, people are living out their rejection of Jesus...

And it's happening now because it's the time when Jesus allowed it to happen...

Evil gets to prevail for a moment, but this dominion of darkness only lasts for a moment, and the irony is that it's determined by God, governed by God, and it *serves the purpose of God*...

Example: My brother- there were times my dad would let my brother do certain things for the purpose of a greater outcome...

- Running away... But dad was right there...

Verse 54:

⁵⁴ They seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. Meanwhile Peter was following at a distance.

One quick note here... Peter begins to distance Himself from Jesus...

- It is dangerous to follow Jesus from a distance... ⁶
- Your confidence and your faith can waiver when you're not close to Jesus... Be in His word, be with His body...

Verse 55:

⁵⁵ They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, and Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ When a servant saw him sitting in the light, and looked closely at him, she said, "This man was with him too."

⁵⁷ But he denied it: "Woman, I don't know him."

⁵⁸ After a little while, someone else saw him and said, "You're one of them too."

"Man, I am not!" Peter said.

⁵⁹ About an hour later, another kept insisting, "This man was certainly with him, since he's also a Galilean."

⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ Then the

Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Again, we see the foreknowledge of Jesus... What Jesus said will happen, happens just as He said it...

Verse 63:

⁶³ The men who were holding Jesus started mocking and beating him.

⁶⁴ After blindfolding him, they kept asking, "Prophecy! Who was it that hit you?" ⁶⁵ And they were saying many other blasphemous things to him.

As they mock Him and beat Him, Jesus is sitting there taking it... Meanwhile, He knows their name, He knit them together in their mother's womb (*Psalms 139*)...

This is such a picture right here of our worldly reality creation rejects the creator...

And yet there the creator sits, allowing this so that He can bring about redemption for a broken creation...

Verse 66:

⁶⁶ When daylight came, the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the scribes, convened and brought him before their Sanhedrin. ⁶⁷

They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I do tell you, you will not believe. ⁶⁸ And if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?"

And he said to them, "You say that I am."

⁷¹ "Why do we need any more testimony," they said, "since we've heard it ourselves from his mouth?"

Here's the irony, the religious leaders can't even convict Jesus without the aid of Jesus Himself...

- Jesus chooses to go to the cross by his own words.⁷
- The religious leaders are faced with the question ***who is Jesus?***
 - ***They chose to reject Him... What will you do with Him?!??***

Conclusion [VAMP]

Christian or non-Christian: we're all confronted with the same question, "***who do you say Jesus is?***"

If you're not a Christian, I want you to see who Jesus is this morning, I want you to surrender to Him...

- *Come to our Elders this morning as we sing...*

Christian, for those of you that say Jesus is who He said He is...

- It means that every day we wake up and commit ourselves to that answer...

And in that, there's an incredible hope, a profound confidence that we can have...

- God hears our prayers... He meets us in our hurt, our pain, and our weakness...
- ***And through it all, God is working in and through our brokenness for our good and His glory!***

Closing Story: Jason Gaston's house...

Jesus brings beauty from ashes...

Pray

⁷ Darrell L. Bock, Luke: 9:51–24:53, vol. 2, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, 1802–1803.

Discuss and Reflect

- Read verses 39-45, what can we learn about the power of prayer from these verses?
 - How does this play out in our lives today?
- Reflect on verses 41-45, what can we learn about Jesus' divinity and humanity?
 - Why is it important to understand that Jesus was fully human and fully God
- Read verses 54-62, what is the difference between Peter's denial and Judas'?
 - *Note: The difference between weakness and wickedness in the two different cases. Furthermore, consider who of the two returned back to Jesus and presented lasting faith til the end.*
- How do we deny Jesus in our lives?
- In the betrayal of Jesus, what can learn about God's purpose and plan?
 - *Note: Consider how God uses sin (Judas' betrayal) and brings about the redemption for Christians*