



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 63: When Darkness Reigns - Luke 22:1-6, 47-53 - March 8, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Dante's Inferno, circles of hell spiraling down to the 9th level, the level of treachery, where Satan himself is trapped in ice, perpetually eating Judas Iscariot.

A. The Plot Conceived - Luke 22:1-6

- The Setting
 - Luke contrasts the joyful holiday feast (v. 1) with the sinister desires of the religious leadership seeking to kill Jesus. (v. 2) A holy day is overshadowed by hateful people.
- A Convenience
 - Judas is a totally unexpected helper for the flummoxed plotters.
 - Imagine the surprise and relief of the religious leaders. "They were glad." (v. 5)
- Satan Enters Judas
 - This interesting phrase (v. 3) should not be *over-* or *under-played*. We must maintain that Satan is real and coercive WHILE Judas remains culpable for his traitorous actions.
 - A door is open to the devil (see: Gen. 4:7), and sin is an inside job (see: James 1:14-15)

B. The Plot Commenced - Luke 22:47-53

- A Kiss
 - Jesus calls his friend by name, pondering how evil is done in most friendly way. (v. 48)
- A Healing (and a Rejection of Violence)
 - Luke's gospel is the only one that mentions that Jesus heals the severed ear. (v. 51)
- An Accusation
 - Jesus notes that he could have been arrested anytime (v. 52-53), but they cannot do in the day what they must do in the darkness.

C. When Darkness Reigns - Luke 22:53

- Judas is "One of the Twelve" (v. 3, 47) - a companion of the "light of the world"
 - Think of his *biblical education* - Jesus is the master teacher
 - Think of the *spiritual benefit* - Jesus the ready counselor and pray-er.
 - Think of the *miracles experienced* - Jesus has done incredible things in his sight
- How does Darkness find a Foothold?
 - Greed?
 - See John 12 - Judas had the moneybag for the disciples and was not always honest in how he used it.
 - All four gospels mention money as a motivator for the betrayal.
 - Jealousy/Bitterness?
 - Was Judas sick of being in the shadow of over more prominent disciples?
 - Disappointment/Frustration?
 - Was Jesus not fulfilling what Judas expected re: "the Kingdom of God"?
 - Anxiety/Fear?
 - Was the pressure from the Jews and the Romans more than he could handle?
 - Lust? - Perhaps not for Judas, but definitely for some!
 - Power?

Those same temptations and sins are the exact same way that we leave the door open for Satan to enter into our lives - to extinguish our light in his great darkness.

The sinful, wicked, antichrist life will always hate the light (John 3:20)

"This is your hour - when darkness reigns"

Yet, it is ONLY an hour, light will shine again - the resurrection illuminates the cross.

Love the light! Live in the light!



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are your initial thoughts when someone mentions the name Judas Iscariot? What are some contexts (outside the church) where you might hear someone mention that name?
2. How does Luke 22:1-6 also point to the sovereignty of God when you consider the timing of Judas's decision to approach the religious leaders?
3. What are the dangers of "over-emphasizing" Satanic influence? What are the dangers of "under-emphasizing" Satanic influence?
4. Jesus had a pretty recognizable location and appearance during the final week of his life. Why was he never arrested in public or during the daytime?
5. Why is "one of the twelve" such a devastating descriptor?
6. How did Satan enter Judas? What do you think was the motivation for his actions?
7. How are those same temptations also open doors for darkness and Satan in our lives?