

Luke 22:35-71 – 24 September 2023

“Moment Of Truth”

Introduction

- *Luke chap 22 records the final events in Jerusalem before Jesus' arrest – that of the Passover Sedar Meal
- *He's been preparing His disciples for more than a year about His pending departure
- *There are moments of truth that we face in life
 - **Moments when a person is tested, and a decision has to be made or a crisis has to be faced*
- *Jesus' soon departure brings crisis on the scene
 - *How does Jesus face it? The Disciples?
- *I believe as we grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord, we face these moments of truth more easily
- *Today, let's look at 4 heart conditions that are revealed in these moments of truth**

#1: Do we have a heart set on serving God (Vs 35-46)

Read Vs 35-37

1. When Jesus sent them last year to evangelize, there was relative calm & Jesus was near, but now they'll be facing a hostile world without Him
2. They were, in a way, protected until the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus

Read Vs 38

1. Now they want to overreact & gather an armada
 - a. He's just saying to be ready for hard time
 - b. It's enough as in enough of that kind of talk
2. He's saying these things right at the time that He's giving His farewell address of John 14-16 and the Lord's prayer of John 17
 - a. He needs them to understand that He's leaving (Jhn 14)
 - b. Yet tells them to abide in Him as branches b/c the world hates them (John 15)
 - c. He wants them to have hope & peace while they're apart (John 16)

Read Vs 39-41

1. He leaves 8 of them in the garden & goes deeper w/ Peter, James & John
 - a. It is to those 3 that He said to pray that they enter not into temptation
2. People say, “why did I fall for that same sin again today?”
 - a. Did you pray that very day about it?
3. Jesus just role-modelled prayer in John 17 just before leaving the upper room
 - a. He prayed for Self, disciples & the world
 - b. THEY should have done same right now

Read Vs 42

1. What is the cup? The cup of God’s wrath on sin See Rev 6, 14 & 16
 - a. Read John 3:36 – Believe in Son=life; don’t believe in the Son=wrath abides on you
 - b. Read I Thess 5:9 – God’s not appointed us to wrath
2. There IS no other way – that’s why the cross is so offensive! Calling for ‘nice’ doesn’t = cross

3. God is looking for people that have spent time w/ Him to be convinced of what His will is & THEN to do it!

Read Vs 43-44

1. Jesus leans more into prayer in these moments of truth not further away
 - a. He wouldn't leave until it was settled

Read Vs 45-46

1. There were multiple rounds back to the disciples and back to prayer to get ready
2. Jesus told them the Spirit was willing but their flesh was weak
 - a. The way to change is thru discipline & time

#2: Do we have a heart set on serving people (Vs 47-53)

Read Vs 47-48

1. As if to say, "even now you can't be honest about what you're doing Judas?"

Read Vs 49

1. The indication is that they were still sleeping and are ‘late to the party’

Read Vs 50-51

1. Jesus says suffer this or allow this
 - a. Jesus is FAR from powerless here
 - i. In Matthew, Jesus tells Peter that He could get 12 legions of angels from His Father
 - ii. Jesus is wanting to follow God’s will
 - b. John records Jesus said, “aren’t I supposed to drink of the cup My Father’s giving Me”
2. Notice, our entrance to heaven is already sealed
 - a. The Garden made it a certainty
 - b. The Cross made it a reality
 - c. And The Resurrection took away all ambiguity
3. Why put his ear back on?
 - a. B/c Jesus’ command is for us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves
 - b. It’s a miracle that shows great GRACE
 - c. Imagine the impact this grace would have for the rest of Malchus’ life
 - i. Will we see Malchus in eternity?

Read Vs 52-53

1. Jesus is trying to get them to see their own sin
 - a. Sin loves to work in darkness

#3: Do we have a heart set on fear of what might happen (Vs 54-62)

Read Vs 54-57

1. Peter was in such fear that he denied even knowing Jesus – yet Jesus has been saying that this is all part of the plan

Read Vs 58-60

1. Although it's possible that Peter was in harm's way with them, it's also very likely that they just wanted to know more about Jesus
2. John tells us this man (vs 59) was Malchus' kin
 - a. He knew of the grace Malchus was shown
 - b. From Acts 6:7: great # of priests were saved
3. Peter was sleepy when should be praying
 - a. Things got hard & followed at a distance
 - b. Then was warming at the enemy's fire
 - c. Correct it at step #1 NOT step #3

Read Vs 61-62

1. Peter feels like a failure but it's not final
 - a. God's grace means failure isn't final!
 - b. Jesus had told Peter that He's prayed his faith fails not
 - c. In just a few short days Peter will be a bold witness for Jesus
2. Had Peter only trusted in the Word of God, he would have still wept...but not bitterly

#4: Do we have a heart set in stone unwilling to be humbled (Vs 63-71)

Read Vs 63-65

1. In these final hours of the night Jesus stood before Annas then to Caiaphas (H.P.)
 - a. Read Matt 26:63-66 – High Priest asks if He's Christ, rips clothes and finds Jesus guilty
2. So they begin to blindfold and beat Him as prophesied
 - a. Read Isa 52:14

Read Vs 66-69

1. There's a time to not 'cast your pearls before swine' (Matt 7:6)
2. They aren't interesting in hearing & believing, they'll only turn on you w/ the info

Read Vs 70-71

1. Some would say Jesus never claimed to be God's Son – but here He does
2. Claiming what they believe is even stronger testimony than self acclamation

Conclusion

So a crisis is called a moment of truth b/c the truth of what's really in your heart will come out

1. **Do you have a heart set on serving God?**
2. **Do you have a heart set on serving people?**
3. **Do you have a heart set of fear of what might happen?**
4. **Do you have a heart set in stone unwilling to be humbled?**