

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"FRIENDS DENY HIM, FOES DEBASE HIM, FRAUDS DISHONOR HIM" | LUKE 22:54-71 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What's a memorable song, movie, or story about rejection?

"Friends Deny Him" (Luke 22: 54-62)

Peter, even though he was warned, still denies Jesus three times, and he weeps bitterly when he realizes it. **What are ways Christ followers should react when they realize they have failed?**

"Foes Debase Him" (Luke 22: 63-64)

Jesus is beaten and mocked by soldiers at his trial. **How does knowing Jesus went through this public humiliation affect people when they pray to Him?**

"Frauds Dishonor Him" (Luke 22: 66-71)

Jesus' trial has many false witnesses, but when he agrees with their accusation that he claims to be the Son of God, they can convict. **How do people today react to Jesus claiming to be the Son of God?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus endured rejection from friends, from strangers, and from enemies and none of it he deserved. In fact, he was being rejected for who He was, the Son of God, and people were confused, threatened or in denial about that. **What does Jesus being the Son of God mean to you? Have you denied or rejected Jesus as Lord recently? Remember Jesus loves and forgives and still has plans for you even when you fail.**

Friends Deny Him. Foes Debase Him. Frauds Dishonor Him.

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: Pantry. Men's. Kick-off. CK Summer. Mdl Schl Camp. Prayer.
- B. Slide8 Pro-Life: Planned Parenthood is opening an office soon in Murrieta on Hancock. They are opening in a building where medical uses are allowed as a matter of right based on the current zoning. While the City cannot legally prevent them from opening, we can be praying for the unborn in our valley and in our city.
1. We can also educate ourselves and spread awareness about *local organizations* that provide *pro-life services*, support women *before and after birth*, and support new families with classes and necessities.
 2. *Elsinore Valley Pregnancy Resource Center* is one such organization. *It offers ultrasound referrals, pregnancy counseling, educational classes, infant supplies, and post abortion support. This amazing organization also needs our financial support.* [78% of Women Considering an Abortion Choose Life When They See an Ultrasound]
 3. If you want more information on *Elsinore Valley Pregnancy Resource Center*, they are **out front at a table** to tell you more about how you can get involved, and give you *more information about the services they provide* so if in the future you know someone who needs help you know of a place you can send them that will *support life in every way.*
- C. Prayer: TY Jesus when you came, *you didn't come to bring judgment but to bear it.*

II. Slide9 **Intro:** *Friends Deny Him. Foes Debase Him. Frauds Dishonor Him.*

- A. In the passion narrative, there are *different themes*. One of them is **rejection**.
1. **We have all experienced rejection.** Maybe it was not getting a job that you knew you were qualified for. Not getting in the college that your desired. Thinking that you deserved a promotion that someone else received. Ever turned down for a date? (oh, they said it nicely, like, I can't because I love you like a brother)

2. Those are all normal in life. **But** have you ever been rejected by someone who should love you? Like a parent, spouse, fiancé, a teacher, a coach, or a friend that caused great hurt.

3. If so **Jesus** understands that, *at a deep and profound level*. **Jesus was rejected** by those who should have loved him. *Jesus came to his own, and they received him not.*

a) And all through the passion event he was *rejected* by various people:

The betrayal by **Judas**, the denial of **Peter**, the running away of all the **disciples**, the **guards** mocking him, the **Jewish leaders** hating him, **Pilate's** unwillingness to defend him, and **the crowd** chanting crucify him. We'll look at 3 of these this morning.

B. **Outline:** *Friends Deny Him. Foes Debase Him. Frauds Dishonor Him.*

III. Slide10 **FRIENDS DENY HIM (54-62) READ**

A. **We start with a very personal rejection.** Peter denying him, 3 times.

B. **Have you ever been rejected** by someone that **should've loved you?** **But** let me also ask you, **have you been loved** by someone who **should have rejected you?**

1. **That's what we have in Christ.** He should have **rejected** us, *instead* he **received** us. He was **rejected** so that we could be **accepted**.

C. **Now there's a big difference** between **Judas** and **Peter** and what they did.

1. One is **wicked** and the other one is **weak**. One *repented* eventually, and one did not. **Judas** planned to betray Jesus. **Peter** planned on going to prison or even dying for Jesus, but in a moment of weakness he denied him. **Then** he would repent, and later, even **give up his life** for the love of his Lord. [we learn 2 things from Peter: **Humility** & **Hope**]

D. **Slide11a HUMILITY** - Even though Jesus said, you will all fall away, and even adds a scripture to go with it from Zechariah, *he will strike the shepherd in the sheep, or scatter.*

1. **So why did he fall?** I think he genuinely believe that he would not fall. And I think he genuinely love Jesus. **I think the issue was pride, self reliance,**

prayerlessness. See you when we have a high view of your self and we don't take the enemy seriously we are walking disaster. Remember, *pray that you may not enter into temptation.*

2. The spirit of a disciple is *not a cocky self-reliance, but humble Spirit dependence.* (or, don't have a big mouth and a fat head).

E. HOPE - There is good news for the fallen, in the story of Peter here. We know the Lord restored Peter, and he became *a hero in the faith.* Think about it, this guy that caved with a young girl and denied Jesus. They name cities after him, they name colleges after him, they name churches after him, they name their kids after him.

1. No one names their kid after Nero, maybe if you have an ornery dog.

No one names any one after Caesar, except the salad, or a pizza place.

2. Yes, Peters story encourages us. If you've made a mess of things in your spiritual life. If your cheese continues to fall off your cracker. Then you have a testimony to encourage you in Simon Peter. 3 strikes and you're out is for baseball not your Christian life. Failure is not final in the Christian life. You are never beyond the reach of God's restoring grace.

F. Slide11b Only Luke records that Jesus turned and looked at Peter. What kind of look did Jesus give Peter? (b4 you answer, it might reveal how you perceive Jesus yourself).

Was it a scowl? A look of disappointment? A look of I told you so? Nope, a look of love. [Rom. 2:4 *It is his kindness that leads us to repentance*]

1. [note Jesus didn't criticize him] I wish I only denied him 3 times! :(

IV. Slide12 FOES DEBASE HIM (63-65) READ

A. We 1st looked at Peter's personal rejection. Now we'll look at a physical and emotional rejection as the guards mock him and beat him.

1. For these guards it was probably just another day at the office.

They don't realize He's the Son of man, He's the Messiah.

2. **Shaming the prisoner was the name of the game.** A range of words are used in the NT: *dishonor, disgrace, scorn, despise, reviled, reproach, rebuke, insult, blaspheme, deride, & mock*. [spitting in Jesus' face, striking him on the face & head, stripping off his clothes, ridiculing & insulting him]

B. **Slide13a Shame** - there are 2 types of shame:

1. **The 1st one** is a shame you **should** feel because you **sinned against God**. Remember **Adam and Eve** in the garden. **Before** their sin, they lived with **no shame**. Then they **sin** and they **feel shame**.

2. **The 2nd one** is a shame you **should not** feel, because **someone has sinned against you**. (maybe, someone who **should have** loved you *abused you*. **Or** someone cheated on you. **Or** somebody verbally attacked you).

a) **Good news**, **Jesus has dealt with both** kinds of shame.

b) Through **repentance and faith** **Jesus removes guilt, cancels debt, covers shame, and grants us his righteousness**. Giving us a completely **new identity**. Our shame is replaced with **honor**.

c) Concerning the shame that you **should not** feel, because someone has sinned against you. Please hear, **Jesus can identify with you, he's able to strengthen you, and He's shown us how to endure it**. **Jesus is our sympathetic, high priest**. He can say, ***I know what it's like to be hated. I know what it's like to be rejected. I know what it's like to be abused. I know what it's like when the whole world is laughing at you.*** Understand, He doesn't just omnisciently know all things (though He does), **but** he went through it.

3. **Slide13b Heb.12:2** **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

a) **Despising in the shame** meaning that *He minimized it, He counted it is nothing*.

b) **How did you do it? For the joy set before him**, looking past the cross to **the crown**. On the other side of **shame**, is **glory**. Shames great reversal!

C. **The Sure Word of Jesus**

D. Just as Jesus promised, Peter, he would be sifted, **that came true**, but he also prayed for him that his faith would not fail, which **also came true**.

1. When Jesus says *those that come to me, I will never cast out*. That's true.
2. *My sheep will never perish*. That's true.
3. *I am the resurrection and the life whoever believes in me though he die yet shall he live*. That's true.
4. *I will come again, and take you to my self*. That is true.
 - a) The word of Jesus is the pillow in which we rest are weary heads.

V. Slide14 **FRAUDS DISHONOR HIM (66-71) READ**

A. Slide15a Here Luke wants to be clear on the **Identity** of **Jesus**, so he preserved this part of the trial.

B. Remember **Christ** or *Messiah*, or *Anointed One* carries **kingly/political overtones**.

1. To which the council knows ... *if they can argue their case to Pilate that he's trying to rebel against Cesar, then they have a case*.

C. Jesus answers this way (*you say that I am*) because He's already explained it to the religious leaders, a # of times, and **they rejected it**.

1. Here is the question posed to all mankind ... **is Jesus, the Christ, Messiah?**
2. **Time magazine reported** that more books have been written about **Jesus** *than any other person in history*. And usually those books focus on his **identity**.

D. Slide15b Here's the irony behind all of this. They think that **they're** making a judgment of **Jesus**. Yet **Jesus** is saying, *I am the one who will judge the whole world*.

E. (69,70) **Son of man, Son of God**.

F. Slide15c People make an *assessment* of **Jesus**, which everyone must, **but** ultimately it will be **Jesus** making the *assessment* of **us**.

G. Richard Dawkins, the famous atheist that wrote *The God Delusion* said, "*To believe in any deity is to commit intellectual high treason. But if you believe in the God of*

the Bible that's even worse.” He said the God of the Bible is quote, “*petty unjust, unforgiving, a control freak, a vindictive, bloodthirsty, ethnic cleanser, a racist, a capricious malevolent bully.*” and the list goes on.

1. That's an example of one who wants to *stand over God*, and give a *judgment* of God. *Diluted* by his own *intellectual superiority*, when it is *Jesus*, who will have *the last word*.

a) The cross is not the end of the story.

H. As they ask, *are you the son of God?* It's clear they're asking about, *Are You claiming deity?*

1. Some have said, *Jesus never claimed to be God Himself*. They say there is nothing recorded in the gospels where *He claimed divinity*. *Well, the guys that crucified Him would beg to differ!* That's why they wanted Him killed, *because He made numerous claims of this*. And here in our text is *Slide15d* another affirmation of that fact, vs.71 *What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.* (*i.e.* blasphemy)

I. This *isn't a new topic* that just pops up at the end of the story. In the very beginning of Luke, Gabriel said, *He's the son of the most high*. At His baptism and again at the transfiguration, His Father said, *You are My beloved Son*.

J. So Jesus is not evading the question, *you say that I am*, but rather affirming the idea. *You have just confessed it*, that I am the son of God, even if you *don't believe it*.

1. Now all they need is to have Pilate sign off on it (next week).

K. *So to you this morning, Who is Jesus?* These men could've been *saved*. If they said, *what further testimony do we need?* They should've answered, *Nothing! We believe that He is the son of God, the son of man, the Christ, the Messiah.*

L. Some have a *quick Damascus Road experience*, but most don't. It takes some time. Others have a CS Lewis experience.

1. CS Lewis started with not believing that God even existed, then ends up believing *Jesus is the Christ*. He had many long conversations with his friends like *J.R.R. Tolkien*. Then he describes this rather mundane experience when he believed. He said, “I knew very well when but not how the final step was taken. I was driven to the zoo one Sunday morning. *When I set out, I did not believe that Jesus Christ was the son of God, but when I reached the zoo I did.*” he was riding in the side-car of his brothers motorcycle.

a) Keep seeking, keep asking questions keep learning about Christ
Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

M. Communion:

N. Keywords: rejection, shame, integrity.