

# 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!***

## "LESSONS AT THE DINNER TABLE" | LUKE 22:24-38 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

***What are interesting rules or traditions people have for dinnertime?***

### ***"Lesson On Leadership and True Greatness" (Luke 22: 24-30)***

The disciples argue over who is the greatest and Jesus tells them that to be great in God's eyes means to serve others. **What are ways our culture today makes it hard to be great like Jesus defines it? How can people choose to be great like Jesus defines it?**

### ***"Lesson on Failure and Hope" (Luke 22: 31-34)***

Jesus warns Peter the devil will be testing him and tells him He has prayed for him, but Peter proclaims he would die for Jesus. **What are reasons God allows people to be tested? Why do people often overestimate their ability to handle tests of faith?**

### ***"Lesson on Dangerous Christianity" (Luke 22: 34-38)***

Jesus tells the disciples that while before they didn't need provisions or swords, but now they should be more aware because following him is going to get more dangerous. **How can followers of Jesus be both aware of danger and be a servant to all?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shares lessons to his disciples who don't realize what is about to happen to Him; they are focused on their reputation and overestimate their spiritual strength. **When you look at your spirituality and faith, have you been focused on yourself? Are you overestimating your strength to handle spiritual battles? Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment so you can hear his lessons for what you are facing in life right now.**

## Lessons at the Dinner Table

### I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-6 Jen: VBS. Fellowship Night. C@R. Fostering. Mother's Day.

### II. Slide7 Intro:

A. Let's start this morning w/a picturing **a trip** that you **have to take**. You were told it's going to be *a dangerous journey*, with landmines you will not see, and pits to fall into. - **But then** you were handed **a map** of where all the pitfalls are, where every landmine has been planted, where all the dangers lie.<sup>1</sup>

1. So the question I ask you is, *How are you going to treat this map?*
2. Will you wad it up and stick it in your pocket? Will you ignore it? Will you look at it, but not pay attention to it? Will you reference it occasionally?  
**Probably not** because *your life depends upon it!*

B. We are all on **a journey** called *life*. Once you were born, you started this journey. **And** it is a journey you **must take**. You do not have an option, if you are *alive* you **have** to take this journey *called life*.

1. In this journey called *life*, there are **minefields**. There are **explosive devices** and **pitfalls** all around us. **All** designed to **destroy** your life from completing your journey.
2. **But God** has given you **a map**, *His Word*. And **His Word** is designed to reveal to you, *the pitfalls*, so you can **make the journey**.

C. What you **do** with **the map** will affect what you do on the journey.

1. Will you **wad it up** and stick it in your pocket? Will you **ignore it** is there? Will you **look** at it but not pay attention to it? Will you **read it once a week** and take your chances on the other 6 days? **Or**, you can decide that this map is **absolutely essential**. **Because** you want to complete this journey, **because** you don't wanna be killed by what's on the road **undetected**.

<sup>1</sup> Taken from Tony Evans intro <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q42znK2UuM>

D. Well, we are **still** sitting at **the last supper table** (down to vs.38).

1. Jesus still has a few *Lessons at the Dinner Table* for the disciples. I remember such great discussions growing up around our dinner table of 9. (explain)
2. Outline: *A lesson on Leadership and True Greatness.*  
*A lesson on Failure and Hope. A lesson on Dangerous Christianity.*

E. Prayer: *Weeping last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*

### III. Slide8 **A LESSON ON LEADERSHIP AND TRUE GREATNESS (24-30)** Read

A. Reversing The Worlds Standards

B. I guess this was the 1st century way to *call shotgun* so you don't have to ride in the backseat.

C. Slide9a Why would the disciples be arguing over *who was the greatest* when Jesus had just washed their feet and talked about His suffering and death? WWW, Outlines of OT

D. Perhaps the arguing grew out of the order of *seating at the table*. (Sitting at the big table)

1. Seemed Judas was given *the place of honor* at our Lord's left, and John was at His right. [U shaped table, *triclinium*, 3 couches]

E. Whatever the reason, their attitude was that of the world, where *competition and authority* are important to success.

1. In the kingdom of God, *greatness* is measured by *how many you serve*, not *how many serve you*.

2. Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's Hamburgers, wrote: "*I got my MBA long before my GED. I even have a photograph of me in my MBA graduation outfit - a snappy, knee-length work apron. I guarantee you that I'm the only founder among America's big companies whose picture in the corporate Annual report shows him wielding a mop and a plastic bucket! That wasn't a gag; it was a case of leading by example. At Wendy's, MBA does not mean Master of Business Administration. Slide9b It means Mop Bucket Attitude!"*

F. The disciples wanted the glory but not the shame. The crown but not the cross. To be masters but not servants.

G. It is ok to go for greatness. Well actually, it is *praiseworthy* when we do so.

1. Didn't Jesus say, *among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist. Jesus was into Greatness!*
2. Going after greatness is commended ... it just needed to be **redefined!**
  - a) Slide9c The **motivation** determines its **character**.
  - b) Jeremiah said to his assistant Baruch (Jer's secretary), *do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not.* Jer.45:5  
Jeremiah warns Baruch, not against ambition per-se, but against *self-centered ambition*. Any ambition that centers on and terminates on oneself ... is *wrong ambition*. [Paul said, *do nothing from selfish ambition*. Phil. 2:3]

H. Slide9d Jesus is the **model** for our ministry, and He was a **servant**.

1. In Jn.13:3 Jesus *received all authority* (12:49), *and did what? He washed feet*. [He stooped lower & lower].
2. You may **push yourself** to the **top**, but when you get there, you'll find yourself *farthest from His presence*.
3. See, when you **serve others**, you'll look *strangely like God*.<sup>2</sup>
  - a) Would you like the best *dating advice, marriage advice, ministry advice, & employee advice*? Ask yourself<sub>(ready)</sub> *Who can stoop lower to serve the other better?*

I. Slide9e When Jesus showed Himself in His post-resurrection appearances, *you not what He seemed to show the most? His scars!* (not some crown, not new clothes, His scars!)

1. e.g. He showed Himself to the 2 Emmaus disciples: *He was made known to them in the breaking of bread*. (How? When hands broke bread?) Lk.24:35
2. He showed Himself to the 10 disciples in upper room: *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself*. Lk.24:39

<sup>2</sup> Erwin McManus, Uprising, pg.251.

3. He showed Himself to Thomas: *Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side.* Jn.20:27

J. Scars seem to be **the authentic marks** of faithful discipleship.

1. Who can challenge one's love when they show you the **print** of the nails and the **mark** of the spear???
2. Paul said, *for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.*
3. Do you have any **servant marks**? Maybe **camel knees** from praying so much? Or, **prune hands** from washing the feet of others?
  - a) Let's take some marks with us!

K. The Lord assured them that the greatest glory was yet to come (29,30).

1. So why settle for the *transient glory* of this world?

#### IV. Slide10a **A LESSON ON FAILURE AND HOPE (31-34)** *Read*

A. Watch Jesus now pull back the veil on *the unseen realm*.

B. The apostles had experienced some great blessings that evening, but **danger** was very near. Warren Wiersbe, With the Word, pg.684.

1. Be on your guard when you have *a rich spiritual experience*, for Satan is ready to attack. *Especially beware* when you are deciding *who is the greatest!*
2. *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat. And you told him what? :)*
3. Jesus starts with *Simon, Simon* ... *wait* was Peter bragging the loudest? He was the top of the disciple food chain.

C. To sift you like wheat – to test them. (ie.) To put them through **trials** as He did Job.

1. Wheat is sifted so as to separate the **tares** & the **soil** from the **wheat**.
2. In this process of **purification**, it is *constantly shaken* in the sifter.
3. Slide10b Did you know sometimes God *sifts* also? - Amos 9:8b,9 *I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, declares the Lord. But behold, I will*

command, and **shake** the house of Israel among all the nations **as one shakes with a sieve**, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

4. **Results** of the sifting/shaking: **Judas** was separated from them; **Peter** was to deny him; **and the other disciples** were to flee.

D. Satan already controlled Judas, but he had to ask for permission to **sift** *the disciples*.

1. **Jesus** uses a fan, and **sifts** to get rid of **chaff**; but the devil uses a fan and **sifts** to get rid of **wheat**!

E. *Have you considered My servant Job?* That word *considered* reveals the watchful eye of Satan, ever watching the saints. Searching for **the weak link** in the chain, the **weak door** in the fortress, to *break in, rob, and destroy*.

1. Of course he couldn't touch **a flea** on the back of one of Job's camels, **unless** God allowed it.

F. **You** is plural, after *Simon, Simon*. He was addressing **all of them**, Peter being the leader.

G. **Jesus** said, **but I have prayed for you** - when the devil comes knocking, let Jesus answer the door. **Why are we always trying to talk to the devil or rebuke him?** *Don't talk to the devil about God. Talk to God about the devil.*

#### H. Slide 11a-d **Lessons:**

I. [1] **Peter** was clueless to the attack but **Christ** knew every detail about Peter's denial

1. There isn't a single detail of your testing that Christ doesn't already know about. Job 31:4 *Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?*

J. [2] **Peter** didn't know he needed help, **Jesus** knew.

1. Peter's answer showed that he comprehended **neither** the serious events fast approaching, **nor** the reality of his own weakness.

K. [3] **Peter** needed reassurance, *when you have returned to me*.

L. [4] **Peter** needed to be re-commissioned, *strengthen your brothers*.

1. The last section, **serve others**. Now, **strengthen others**.



### M. Cooperate with God's character building process!!!

1. **God doesn't enjoy** seeing your faith come under attack ... **but, He** does long to see your faith **mature**.
2. **He** longs to see you become **more like Christ**.
3. **Christ's** comparison of Simon's test to a farmer sifting wheat, **pointed to the positive outcome of the process**.
  - a) You **can't** make bread out of wheat **until the hull** has been parted from **the grain**. **That's why sifting has to take place**.

### N. Faith should not fail [ek·lay·po]: where we get our word **eclipse**.

1. Your faith won't be **eclipsed** Peter, **because Jesus prayed**.
  - a) Eph.6:16 *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one*.
2. **And his faith didn't fail, Nor his love, his courage** is what **failed**.
  - a) **Peter was a courageous man**, **but** he would **fail** just the same, **because of his self-confidence**. Had he heeded the Lord's warning, he would have **spared himself** a great deal of sorrow and shame.

## V. Slide12 **A LESSON ON DANGEROUS CHRISTIANITY (35-38)** *Read*

- A. **Last bit of instructions in the upper room** (Jn. Ch's 13-17).
- B. **This is unique to Luke**. He is *prepping them* for **His arrest** now only moments away.
- C. (35) **On their earlier mission**, the disciples went **w/o provisions**, **and** depended entirely on the hospitality of their hearers. Shepherd's Notes, pg. 82.
  1. His promise to them was that *they would not lack* - Psalm 23:1.
  2. **On their new mission**, brought about by Jesus' death, **they must be equipped and be prepared to face hostility and persecution**.
- D. (36) **Bring your wallet, backpack, & Roman short sword** – standard equipment out on the road where robbers pose a threat to life itself. (eg. Good Samaritan story)

a) Carry a sword not for offense, **but** for **defense**.

2. **Not** a command to resist, **but** *a picturesque warning* of **dangerous times ahead**. Search the Scriptures; Stibbs; pg.33.

E. (38) *It is enough* – *Enough already!* *You took Me literally* *and* *missed the point*.

1. *He wasn't inventorying the disciple's arsenal*. Had that been the case 2 swords *wouldn't* have been enough, *and* He would've said, *buy more!*

2. So Jesus concludes the conversation, after they *failed to grasp His meaning in the sword metaphor*.

3. *And* I've gone too long this morning ... *it is enough!*

F. **\*\*\*\*\***

G. *After last song: Well mom's have a Happy Mother's Day!* - We have *charcuterie cups* out front *for all our moms*, to have a little treat *and* a picture spot by *the welcome center* for **family photos**.

H. Keywords: leadership, greatness, failure.