

A Study of Luke's Gospel  
Week Thirty  
Luke 22:7-34

Day One

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." 9 "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. 10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" 12 He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

v. 7 – The Passover was instituted in Egypt and was the protection for Israel as the last plague claimed the life of the firstborn of each household. The Passover was then to be followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread, another seven-day celebration. Both feasts were of course only shadows of the reality that was to come in Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate Passover sacrifice, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Leaven symbolized sin and the Jews were to eat bread without leaven or yeast for seven days after Passover, pointing to the fact that Jesus sacrifice would enable us to worship God having our sins dealt with by His blood.

I enjoy reading the Old Testament and relating it to New Testament realities, remembering the little poem I learned years ago:

The Old is in the New explained, the New is in the Old contained.  
The Old is in the New revealed, the New is in the Old concealed.

v. 8 – Jesus sent two of his closest disciples to prepare the Passover. I wonder how they felt about such a menial task? How do you feel about doing things that are “below” you? Can you set up chairs or serve at church functions? The mystics of old understood the necessity to humble the flesh through common, simple work. Disciples could learn from their example.

v. 9 – Someone once said that every servant has one right and that is to know the will of the master. Here the two men asked Jesus questions as to the specifics of their Passover preparations. Are you asking Jesus specific questions about what He wants you to do? He won't be offended. In fact, He will answer you with surprising specificity.

v. 10 – Jesus told them to look for a *man* carrying water. This would have been highly unusual, for drawing water was women's work. Perhaps James and John thought, “Where are we going to find a man carrying water?” Then they were told to follow that man. I would have been thinking all the time, “What's this man going to think?” But the disciples obeyed, having been with Jesus for more than three years at this point and

probably having learned to expect the unexpected. No matter how long you've been with Jesus, you would be wise to do the same.

vs. 11&12 – The Lord can provide in such fantastic ways. In this case, He sent the disciples to a room, furnished and ready for them to eat their last meal together. I once stayed at a beachfront condominium and said to the Lord, "I would love to have one of these." I felt the Lord reply, "You already do. I will give you one whenever you need to use one." And He has. Whenever I have needed a break, He has provided a free week at the beach. My point is that you and I are connected to all that we need, not through ownership, but through relationship with Jesus.

### **Day Two**

13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

v. 13 – This verse provides the model for the Christian life. Jesus gave a command to the disciples, explaining what they needed to do and how to do it. Then the disciples obeyed. When they obeyed and acted, they found things to be just as Jesus had promised. Because they had obeyed (their role), God made the way for them (His role). Isn't this simple? Then why do I make it so complicated? Why don't I trust Jesus enough to believe that I will find things as He promised? That is the key—trust!

What else did Jesus say that requires my trust?

1. If I give things away, I would have abundance.
2. If I would lose my life, I would find it.
3. If I would draw near to Him, He would draw near to me.

Can you think of any others to add to this list?

v. 14 – When you go to Israel, your guide takes you to a room that was probably similar to this room where Jesus and His disciples at the Passover. I wonder how the disciples families felt that they weren't home with them, but instead were with Jesus? There is always a price for families to pay when members follow the Lord.

At any rate, the famous painting by Leonardo Da Vinci portraying the last supper, while a masterpiece, has it all wrong. Jesus' group would have sat on the ground, with the food on low tables, and not at one long table. There would have been plenty of pillows around for the disciples to lean on while they sat and at—that is why it is said that they reclined at the table. They would have sat four to a table maximum and there would have been a definite order to who sat where.

If you remember when Jesus washed the disciples feet in John 13, He came to Peter last. Because Peter had prepared the meal, he would have been seated at the last table, which is why Jesus came to him last. How do you think Peter felt about this? How would you feel?

v. 15 – Jesus knew that His relationship with the disciples would never be the same from this point forward. Things would be set in motion, which they did not understand, but which He knew to be the fulfillment of God’s government on earth. The events after this meal would provide the means for the forgiveness of man’s sins, the establishment of the Church and the fulfillment of God’s rule in the lives of men and on earth. That is why perhaps He was eager to eat with His followers.

And perhaps He also ate this symbolic meal, knowing that He was about to fulfill the meaning of that Passover meal that had been eaten by so many for so long. The promised redemption of Israel was about to take place, and His suffering would be its hallmark.

v. 16 – I wonder what the “it” refers to here? I would think that the it is the message of the Passover—that the Lamb’s blood would be put on the doorpost of men’s hearts, causing the angel of death to pass over that life. With the angel of death rendered helpless, mankind could then enter into eternal life through the same blood that protected them from eternal death. And how did all this take place? Through God’s kingdom, for it was in response to God’s will and government that Jesus was about to endure the most horrifying death that man had ever devised against man.

History was about to be made and a century’s old ritual was about to be fulfilled, and the disciples had no idea what was going on. But Jesus did and that’s all that mattered at that point.

### **Day Three**

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

v. 17 – The Passover meal has a cup of wine that is drunk by all present. What did the cup represent? Generally it represented the totality of a man’s life. Consider these references:

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure (Psalm 16:5).

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (Psalm 23:5).

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father" (Matthew 20:22-23).

We drink from a common cup with Jesus, sharing in His sufferings and His life. Is your cup filled with bitter or sweet things? Wine is almost always a symbol of joy in the Old Testament. Are you grateful for God's goodness, even if you are suffering for a season?

v. 18 – The Kingdom was very much on Jesus' mind. That is what he came to preach (see Matthew 3:3), and now He was on the verge of fulfilling and establishing it. Jesus was going to submit to the Father's will, even unto death. He wasn't going to ride into Jerusalem on a white horse or take the throne of David with pomp and grandeur. He was about to die a humiliating death on a cross and that would institute the kingdom of God.

How magnificent are God's ways! And they are nothing like my ways. What man honors, God dishonors and what He honors, man tends to despise. Of Lord, help me to understand you and your ways!

v. 19 – Jesus was about to give His body for all disciples of all time. He would hold nothing back in the service of God in the best interests of His people. I am not sure all that took place at this table that night. There are many interpretations and traditions among the Christian groups today. But I think we all agree that this last supper was pointing to what would happen in the next three days that would provide a way into God's presence through Jesus body and blood, which He yielded to the Father in total submission and trust.

My own understanding is that there is nothing mystical that occurs when we eat of the Lord's meal today. But through it we strongly identify with Jesus, His disciples through history and even going back to our descendants who ate the Passover meal in Egypt. We recognize our need for divine help and protection from death and sin. We acknowledge our need for a Savior to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We identify with our need to live for Jesus, suffering for Him if that is His will. We position ourselves as we eat with every believer today who makes a profession of faith as we drink from the same cup, so to speak.

#### **Day Four**

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." 23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

v. 20 – There are multiple cups of wine during the Passover meal and now Jesus circulated another cup. There is no way the disciples could have understood what was to take place in the next few days. But Jesus instituted this covenant meal so that the disciples would know what was truly important. I am sure they thought that they would be celebrating the Passover meal together, but of course Jesus instituted a replacement for that meal.

v. 21 – The concept of betrayal at a meal where the men were sharing their common heritage and life was particularly striking. It must have weighed heavily on Jesus' mind for Him to mention it at this point. Loyalty and covenant are important values to God. Judas violated both those values and he paid for it with his life.

v. 22 – Judas was held responsible for what he did, even though it was predicted by Scripture. This means he made the decision to betray Jesus of his own free will, yet when he did, he fulfilled the will of God that had been decreed for Jesus' death. I don't understand how God can work with man's free will to have His sovereign will achieved. Someone said that God is playing chess with man; He matches his every move.

v. 23 – The disciples began to ask who would betray Jesus. In a sense they all would when they deserted Him, but they did not match the level of Judas' treachery. But their questions about who would betray Jesus gave way to another debate, which we will look at tomorrow.

Proverbs tells us:

Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?  
(Proverbs 20:6).

It is one thing to talk about faithfulness; it is another to carry it out. Are you faithful? How do you know you are? Just because you said so? Talk is cheap; do the things that will enable others to declare that you are faithful.

### **Day Five**

24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

v. 24 – The disciples quickly transitioned from an interrogation of who may betray Jesus to a discussion of who was the greatest. What a topic at a time like that! What's more, they had this discussion before and Jesus had answered their question:

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest" (Luke 9:46-48).

Don't judge the disciples too harshly, however, for we still have these arguments and debates. I am always trying to justify why people should treat me better. My feelings get hurt when I am slighted. Why? Because I think I deserve better. Why? Because I think I am greater than the person who is mistreating me. So in a sense, I am continuing the debate that the disciples conducted.

Jesus is our model for behavior, not the apostles or any other person. And how did Jesus deal with the greatness issue? Read what Paul wrote:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:1-8).

Your attitude should be the same as the one Christ had—that is our goal. So are your feelings hurt right now? What would Jesus do? Have you been slighted and overlooked? What would Jesus do? Don't try to squirm out of it and say, "I'm not Jesus." You're right—you're not. But you are commanded to have the same attitude that He had. So it must be within our free will to choose to react like Jesus when we are wronged.

v. 25 – The word benefactor catches my attention in this verse. A benefactor means "doer of good" in Latin. Jesus did not allow His leaders to take authority over another even when it was in that person's best interests to do so. We are to be servant leaders, pure and simple. That means we must influence people and not exercise authority over them. Wow! Do we have a lot to learn as leaders today. In many instances, all you hear about is authority and submission. But without the balance of servant leadership, the power can easily corrupt God's leaders.

v. 26 – Leadership is service; it isn't about power, money, vision or position. If anyone is a leader in God's church, they should keep in mind Paul's instructions to leaders:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

That requires that leaders get close to their people, listen to them, hear what God is doing in their lives and then use their power and gifts to equip the people for ministry. But we have that reversed today. The people are using their gifts to equip the men and women of God for ministry.

Before you judge any leader that you know, be careful. Where you are leading are you a servant leader? If you aren't leading, now is the time to decide what kind of leader you will be. I urge you to be a servant leader. But be warned: it isn't easy.

v. 27 – Once again we see that Jesus is to be our model—not any other leader. We cannot justify what we do by saying that we aren't as bad as others or better than most. Jesus is our standard. How do you measure up to His leadership model?

### **Day Six**

28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

v. 28 – This almost seems like a ludicrous statement, given what was about to take place. All would desert the Lord in His greatest trial. But at the same time, I can only imagine the pressure the disciples got from family and friends to come home and stop following the man Jesus. Remember, here they were celebrating a most holy feast away from their families. And Jesus was ridiculed and talked against, so I suppose they had indeed stood with Him up to this point.

How much are you willing to endure for Jesus?

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:12-14).

It will seem at times like it isn't worth serving the Lord, for the wicked appear to have the better of the deal. Don't be deceived by this scenario. The wicked prosper because God has left them alone and their prosperity causes them to think that God is irrelevant. But suffering causes us to seek the Lord and opens us to the work He wants to do in our lives.

vs. 29&30 – The apostles did indeed judge the twelve tribes and they are still doing so. As Jews, they recognized the Messiah, worshipped Him as such and were given positions of leadership that still exist today. Their contemporaries, the leaders of the Jews, were

relegated to obscurity and judged as failures. The apostles went on to lead the early Church and write portions of the New Testament that continue to establish God's kingdom in the hearts and lives of men and women everywhere. What an honor God bestowed on those simple men! But God will bestow honor on you if you are faithful. God doesn't promote potential, but rather those who have proved themselves true to Him and His word.

### **Day Seven**

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." 34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

vs. 31&32 – I told you not to judge Judas too harshly, for all the disciples betrayed Jesus one way or another. Here we see Peter declaring his faithfulness, when he didn't even know his own heart. In a few hours he would find out the painful truth that he was no better than anyone else. He wasn't chosen to lead based on his ability or spirituality. He was chosen by the grace of God. What's more, God sustained Peter in leadership by His grace as well.

How did Jesus know that Satan has asked for permission to sift Peter? Did He receive a revelation from the Father? Did Satan visit Jesus again as He did in the wilderness at the beginning of Jesus' ministry? It is interesting to note that Satan had a specific strategy to take out the leader. Everything Jesus did was going to be tested as He died. I wonder what strategy Satan has against you and me? I am glad to know, whatever it is, that Jesus already knows about it too. I am not alone in my walk; God is with me. And what's more, Jesus is praying for me to be strengthened and restored when I fall. Thank you, Lord.

v. 33 – Peter could not receive the truth about himself. In a sense, he contradicted the Lord and maintained his loyalty and innocence. But Jesus knew better, because He knows us intimately. You would be wise to pay attention to the Lord and what He is trying to show you about you. Someone once said that you have two choices: Humble yourself or God will humiliate you. Peter chose the latter and it was a bitter lesson.

Jesus gave Peter a specific word. One would think that Peter would have been listening for the rooster in order not to fulfill this prophetic prediction. But instead, Peter proceeded in his deception and the rest of history. Before the rooster crowed, Peter had denied he even knew Jesus. And this was the man that was going to die for Him! I do not judge Peter but rather identify with him.

Many times I have made promises to God that I broke and made statements of where I was in my spiritual journey that could not be substantiated in fact or action. I have come to the conclusion that nothing about me would surprise me; I am saved by grace and I

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lead by grace. I am certainly no better than anyone else. I must remember what Paul wrote:

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (1 Corinthians 10:11-13).