

Luke 22:1-6
August 16, 2020

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: I'm going to guess that all of us at some point in our life have experienced some level of betrayal from a loved one or a friend. We don't need to know what actually happened, but let's ask, "What are some reasons as to WHY anyone would be willing to betray a friend or a loved one. [Let people engage]

Transition: The Passover is now around the corner and Jesus is getting ready to have the Last Supper with His disciples. But Satan is clearly in the picture because he is still against Jesus! Satan finds a vessel in Judas Iscariot, who will betray Jesus and assist the religious leaders to get rid of Jesus. It's a familiar story line, but let's read the text. Let's begin.

BOOK:

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Process Observations/Questions:

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What resonated with you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn't understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

LOOK:

There are two principles we learn in this text. The world does not operate on the rules of justice and fairness, because people are evil and are subject to control by the power of evil. Greed leads people to evil acts. Our part is to make sure we don't become a vessel of the Enemy to betray Jesus in our personal lives.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Vol. 1, pp. 264-265). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Luke 22:1-6

Jesus had “steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51), knowing full well what would happen to Him there; and now those events were about to occur. They were appointments, not accidents, for they had been determined by the Father and written centuries ago in the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:26–27). We cannot but admire our Savior and love Him more as we see Him courageously enter into this time of suffering and eventual death. We must remember that He did it for us.

The Passover supper in the Upper Room gives us the focus for our present study.

Before the Supper: Preparation (Luke 22:1-6)

Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles were the three most important feasts on the Jewish calendar (Lev. 23); and all the Jewish men were expected to go to Jerusalem each year to celebrate (Deut. 16:16). The Feast of Passover commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and it was a time for both remembering and rejoicing (Ex. 11–12). Thousands of excited pilgrims crowded in and around Jerusalem during that week, causing the Romans to always be nervous about possible uprisings. Passover had strong political overtones, and it was the ideal time for some would-be messiah to attempt to overthrow Rome. This explains why King Herod and Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, were in Jerusalem instead of being at Tiberius and Caesarea respectively. They wanted to help keep the peace.

The religious leaders prepared for a crime (vv. 1-6). It is incredible that these men perpetrated history's greatest crime during Israel's holiest festival. During Passover, the Jews were expected to remove all leaven (yeast) from their houses (Ex. 12:15) as a reminder that their ancestors left Egypt in haste and had to eat unleavened bread. Jesus had warned His disciples about the “leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1; also see Matt. 16:6; 1 Cor. 5:1-8), and now we see this hypocrisy at work.

The religious leaders had cleansed their homes but not their hearts (see Matt. 23:25-28). For a long time now, they had wanted to arrest Jesus and get Him out of the way, but they had not been able to work out a safe plan that would protect them from the people. Judas solved their problem for them. He guaranteed to deliver Jesus to them privately so there would be no uproar from the people. The last thing the Jewish Sanhedrin wanted was a messianic uprising at Passover season (see Luke 19:11).

Judas was motivated and energized by Satan (John 13:2, 27), for he never was a true believer in Jesus Christ. His sins had never been cleansed by the Lord (John 13:10-11), and he had never believed and received eternal life (John 6:64-71). Yet none of the other Apostles had the least suspicion that Judas was a traitor. We have every reason to believe that Judas had been given the same authority as the other men and that he had preached the same message and performed the same miracles. It shows how close a person can come to God's kingdom and still be lost (Matt. 7:21-29).

Why did Judas betray the Lord Jesus? We know that he was a thief (John 12:4-6) and that money played a part in his terrible deed. But thirty pieces of silver was not a large payment for

such a great crime, and there had to be something more involved. It is possible that Judas saw in Jesus the salvation of the Jewish nation and, therefore, he followed Him because he hoped to hold an office in the kingdom. Keep in mind that the Twelve often argued over who was the greatest in the kingdom, and Judas, the treasurer, surely participated in those important discussions.

When Judas understood that Jesus would not establish the kingdom but rather would surrender to the authorities, he turned against Him in bitter retaliation. The “leaven” in his life grew quietly and secretly until it produced “malice and wickedness” (1 Cor. 5:6–8). When you cooperate with Satan, you pay dearly, and Judas ended up destroying himself (Matt. 27:3–5). Satan is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44), and he reproduced himself perfectly in Judas.

Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 258)

1. THE AGREEMENT BY JUDAS TO BETRAY JESUS (22:1–6) (Matt. 26:1–5, 14–16; Mark 14:1–2, 10–11; John 11:45–53).

22:1–6. Luke recorded that the death of Christ occurred at the time of **the Passover**, the annual celebration of the time lambs had been slain in Egypt, when God spared the Israelites but punished the Egyptians (Ex. 12:1–28). On the relationship of **the Feast of Unleavened Bread** to the Passover, see comments on Luke 22:7 and John 19:14. The religious leaders **were afraid of the people** (cf. Luke 19:47–48; 20:19), but were still trying **to get rid of Jesus**. The initiative for the betrayal rested on Judas. **Satan entered Judas** (cf. John 13:27) and he was willing to **betray Jesus for money**. Satan’s taking part in Jesus’ death was actually his own downfall, for through dying Jesus conquered Satan and death (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14).

Butler, T. C. (2000). *Luke* (Vol. 3, pp. 366–367). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

A. The Glory Meets Opposition: Betrayal (22:1–6)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *In God’s timing, Jesus’ teaching ministry ended, and the unfair trial began as Satan used a disciple and friend to betray Jesus.*

22:1. Jesus met the world’s injustice head-on at Israel’s most holy moment, the Passover celebration. Israel prepared to remember and commemorate God’s saving acts in Egypt that created a nation and introduced them to their God (see the Book of Exodus, where Israel’s religious leaders began the process that led to a new Passover Lamb being slain for the sins of the world).

22:2. Luke reiterates what he has underlined before (6:11; 11:53–54; 19:47–48; cf. 9:22; 17:25). Jesus has carried out his entire ministry under the watchful, death-planning eyes of the Jewish religious leaders. Now that plan is about to take effect. One thing prevents its being carried out: fear of the people. The rift between leadership and populace is complete. How can the leaders’ plan be carried out if they do not have the support of the people?

22:3. An old enemy reenters the picture. The devil had left Jesus “until an opportune time” (4:13). The time had come. Satan could not lure Jesus with his tempting, but he did prevail over Judas. This was more than yielding to temptation. Satan actually entered Judas, controlling him as if he were possessed by demons. Luke had already warned us in 6:16 that Judas would

become a traitor. That happens here. A discontented disciple met a devilish tempter and agreed to hand over his Lord. But the battle is now on a higher plain. No longer is this simply a human plot against a leader who threatens their power and position. Now a battle ensues between the Son of God and the ultimate evil power. Jesus' passion is more than a miscarriage of human justice. It is the ultimate battle between good and evil, Satan and God. The rest of the Book of Luke must be read in light of this verse.

22:4–6. Judas held a secret meeting with the two groups that had to be involved if Jesus was to be arrested. The chief priests controlled the temple area where Jesus had been coming to teach. The officers of the temple guard or temple police were involved in the actual arrest. They plotted a strategy to catch Jesus privately when the people could not interfere and prevent the arrest. With Jerusalem overflowing with foreigners coming to celebrate Passover, care had to be taken to prevent public uprising.

Judas, the disciples' treasurer, was always interested in money. The negotiations with the priests and police determined the price Judas would receive for his betrayal.

Judas made the deal and began searching for the time when he could lead the police to Jesus without the crowds surrounding him. Again, Luke makes sure we see the word *betray*. The arrest of Jesus began with unfair, unjust practices and continued on that track until he died. The arrest procedure involved the betrayal by a friend, not the standard operating procedure of a justice department. But this was no ordinary "friend." It was a friend possessed by Satan.

[The Holy Bible: New International Version. \(1984\). \(Lk 22:1-6\). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.](#)