



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story at the Table!

Luke 22:1-23

Message #65 of 70 – S855

Sermon given on August 4, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story at the Table!

Luke 22:1-23

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 22**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- At the end of this service we are going to do something we do monthly – Communion – The Lord’s Supper – The Eucharist
- Jesus instituted this practice on the night that He had His last meal with the 12 men He had spent the last 3 ½ years with
- We refer to this event as the Last Supper
- It is my hope that you go away from this message with a fresh understanding about this special thing we do in the church
- Let’s pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story at the Table!**
- Everything that Jesus did was deliberate and ordained by God the Father
- He had come to earth with a purpose **1 Timothy 1:15**
This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...
- He was going to do that by dying for the sins of the whole world
- **Luke 22:1**
- The Passover was one of three very important feasts of the Jews
- It remembered the Exodus from Egypt when God delivered the Jews with great signs and miracles from 400 years of slavery
- The last plague of Egypt was the death of the firstborn
- To protect the Jews from this plague God told them to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of their homes
- The Angel of Death passed over every home that was covered by the blood of the lamb
- The Passover was the celebration of God’s deliverance

- Part of the ceremony was to sacrifice a lamb, that was eaten by the family while the father would remind his family about all God had done for the people of Israel
- Jesus is about to share this celebratory meal with His disciples
- But there is a dark shadow cast over this feast
- **Luke 22:2-6**
- The religious leaders - who should be preparing the people to engage in one of the holiest events of the year are preparing to commit the greatest crime in human history – they are going to kill God in the flesh
- They get their chance when Judas comes to them and offers to betray Jesus
- Verse 3 tells us that ‘Satan entered Judas’ – literally that means Satan possessed Judas
- People will ask – ‘Can Christians be possessed by demons?’ No!
- Once saved, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us – He doesn’t share His dwelling with demons
- Judas was with Jesus for three and a half years
- So, here he is plotting to betray the One who has shown him nothing but love
- Satan didn’t make him do it, he just empowered what was already in Judas’ heart
- Meanwhile, Jesus is getting ready for the Last Supper
- **Luke 22:7-13**
- On the surface this looks like an expression of Jesus’ omniscience
- But the context presents another explanation
- Judas is looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus when the multitudes are not around
- What better time than when they are alone eating the Passover meal?
- A more likely explanation is that Jesus kept the location secret until He brought the other disciples there
- He prearranged this with the owner of the house – including the man with the picture – women carried water, not men
- This was to be a special time for Jesus with the disciples and He didn’t want to be disturbed

- **Luke 22:14-16**

- Jesus knew that the night would end with Him betrayed and arrested
- He knew that within 24 hours He would be dead and buried
- He knew that His work on the earth was almost finished
- And so, this time with His disciples was precious to Him
- Everything was about to change
- His perfect sacrifice ends the need to make sacrifices for sin

- **Luke 22:17-18**

- By sharing the single cup, Jesus is reminding them and us of our oneness in Christ

- In John's record of the Last Supper **John 17:20-21**

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- One of the things we should remember as we partake of Communion is that we are to be one with Christ and with each other
- Next comes the basis from which we get the reality of what Communion is all about

- **Luke 22:19**

- Part of the Passover meal was unleavened bread
- He picked up a loaf, thanked His Father for it and broke it
- 'This is My body' – not literally – disciples could see the bread was simply bread – Jesus saying it was a symbol for His body
- If I held up a picture and said, this is my mom, no one would assume that piece of paper was my mother – it is a representation of her
- 'My body is given' – not taken – Jesus was not a helpless victim – He was in total control of every circumstance – verse 22 = 'the Son of Man (Jesus) goes as it has been determined'
- 'is given for you' – Jesus speaking to the disciples, including His betrayer Judas – What I am about to do, I am doing for you
- Brothers and sisters, make that personal – draw a line out to the margin and write 'you = (insert your name)'
- When Jesus went to the cross He died for the sins of the whole world, but He did it for each person of the world individually – He did it for you
- Notice next – 'do this' – not a suggestion – do it – What?

- Take the bread – then tells us why ‘in remembrance of Me.’
- We take the bread and we are to pause and remember that Jesus gave His body as a sacrifice for me individually **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**
For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...
- Not only does the bread remind us that Jesus gave His body for us, but it should also remind us that we are His body – called to oneness with other Christians especially those closest to us
- Jesus adds a second element to the Communion
- **Luke 22:20**
- Notice again the personal nature of ‘My blood, which is shed for you.’
- Personally, I have a hard time thinking about that and not wondering why? Why would Jesus do that for me? **Romans 5:8**
God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- It was because of love – Matthew adds to this **Matthew 26:28**
For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
- The word ‘remission’ = payment
- Jesus shed His blood as a payment for the sins of many – ultimately for all who would believe
- In the Old Covenant – the sacrifice of innocent animals was required as a payment for sin
- Sin is anything that is contrary to God’s will, Word, and ways
- Blood was required in the Old Covenant for two reasons
- First, to emphasize the seriousness of sin
- Second, to teach that the payment for sin is death
- In the Old Covenant, the death of the sinner could be avoided by substituting an innocent animal
- When we drink the juice of Communion, we are reminding ourselves that we are sinners, that our sin demanded the penalty of death
- But by faith we believe that Jesus shed His innocent blood on our behalf, therefore making the payment for us
- It is also a time for us to reflect upon our lives to make sure there isn’t any sin we aren’t dealing with in our lives
- We will close this section returning to our antagonist

- **Luke 22:21-23**
- Judas' fate had been predicted hundreds of years before he was born
- Jesus didn't say this to expose Judas, but to give him one last chance to turn from his wicked path
- It is interesting that each of the disciples was wondering who would do this thing
- The other gospels record each of the disciples asking, 'Is it I?'
- Judas, the betrayer, was not obvious to the other disciples
- This should be a warning – Don't be a Judas
- Someone who looks, talks, and maybe even acts like a Christian but has never given his heart to Christ
- No one else may know it, but Jesus does – can't fake your way into heaven
- In verse 19, Jesus said, 'do this in remembrance of Me.'
- Want to close with three things we ought to remember
- Two of them we have already talked about
- First – **His Body**
- Remember that Jesus gave His body for you – He died for you
- Second – **His Blood**
- Remember that he shed His blood for you. Your sins are forgiven
- Third – **His Banquet**
- Paul taught about Communion in the text we usually read – at the end of that text **1 Corinthians 11:26**
- **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**
- It is those last few words, 'till He comes.'
- Communion should also remind us that Jesus is coming back
- And one of the events that we as Christians ought to be looking forward to is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the kingdom of God
- I am going to pray now and then Pastor Randy is going to come up and lead us in remembering what Jesus did
- **Pray!**