

Luke 22:1-38

A Place at the Table

Luke 22 (NIV)

¹ Now the Festival 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.

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 room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

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."

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 from 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."

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.

²⁴ A dispute also 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. 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.

³¹ "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of 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.”

³⁵ Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered.

³⁶ He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷ It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

³⁸ The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That’s enough!” he replied.

Betraying Jesus

? Compare Judas’s betrayal (vv. 1-6) and Peter’s predicted betrayal (vv. 31-34). How are they the same? How are they different?

? Judas is consciously choosing to sin by giving Jesus to the Pharisees while Peter unwittingly sins (vv. 54-62) in denying Jesus. How do you see sin show up in both ways in your life?

A Spot at the Table

? Even knowing that both Peter and Judas would betray Him, Jesus shares the Passover meal with both of them - along with the other disciples, all of whom were sinful in their own ways. Why is it significant that Jesus shares this meal with the disciples?

? The disciples miss the significance of the symbolism of this meal and instead start arguing about their loyalty to Jesus and who among them is greatest. How does Jesus redirect their thinking about what it means to have authority in Christ?

In Exodus 12:1-29 God tells Moses and Aaron how to sacrifice a lamb and spread the blood around the doorposts of the Israelites’ homes to protect them from a destructive plague that would kill every Egyptian firstborn. This blood told the angel of death that the home belonged to the Lord, and he would pass over it and spare the firstborn in that home. The Passover celebration Jesus leads the disciples in was a Jewish tradition to remember God’s provision for the Israelites through the sacrifice of a lamb. At the Last Supper Jesus creates a new covenant (vs. 20) with His disciples. He is establishing a new blood marking for His people with the blood He will shed on the cross. Jesus is telling His disciples that He will become the ultimate and final Passover lamb.

? How have you seen authority in Christ used poorly? How have you see it used well (servanthood)?

? What does it look like to seek servanthood rather than power in our lives (think about ministry, relationships, careers, etc.)?

Questions for Discussion and Accountability

? Are you taking a spot at the Passover table with Jesus? How are you using this position of authority in your life?

? Are there areas in your life where you are seeking power rather than servanthood? How can you reorient those areas to better reflect Christ's example?