

## Luke 22:1-38

### *A Place at the Table*

#### **Study Summary and Learning Objectives**

In this study we will wrestle with the fact that we all betray Jesus and yet, He still invites us to the “table.” His death is redemption for all of us!

#### **Objectives**

- What does it mean to have a seat at the table? It’s not about being chosen for some sort of kingship over others, we are called to servanthood - just like Jesus served us with His sacrifice.

#### **Steps To Prepare (For Leaders)**

- Read Luke 22.
- Look at the questions and possible answers. Think about the ways sin shows up in your life, whether it’s blatant and obvious or sneaks in. Think about the ways you’ve been given “authority” in your life through ministry, in your job, in relationships, or others.
- There are several optional question in this study intended to help your group flush out some of the broader questions. Think about your group dynamic in advance and whether you should plan to include these questions or how you can direct your group to address them as they answer other questions.

#### **Introduce The Study**

**Pray for your time together as a group.**

#### **Read Out Loud: Luke 22 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. <sup>4</sup> And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. <sup>5</sup> They were delighted and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

<sup>9</sup> “Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

<sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> 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?’ <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

<sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

<sup>19</sup> 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.”

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

<sup>22</sup> The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” <sup>23</sup> They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me in my trials. <sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

<sup>33</sup> But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

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

<sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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.”

<sup>38</sup> 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?

*Possible Answers: Judas’s betrayal is planned and intentional. Peter’s betrayal will surprise him. Satan is an active instigator in both cases. Jesus still takes the Passover meal with both of them even though He knows about their betrayal. Peter is adamant that he could never deny Christ and refuses to believe Jesus - even though he will end up denying Him. Judas is passive when Jesus brings up his betrayal, he continues to eat with Jesus and does not say anything.*

*Leader’s Note: Some groups will respond well to this sort of conversational question and naturally compare and contrast Peter and Judas. The two optional questions below may be helpful if your group*

*needs more specific direction with this sort of question. The possible answers for both of these questions are included in the possible answer above.*

? Optional: How does Jesus respond to each of these betrayals?

*Possible Answer: See above.*

? Optional: How are Judas and Peter's reactions to Jesus' knowledge of their betrayal different?

*Possible Answer: See above.*

? 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?

*Possible Answers: Answers will vary in so far as personal experiences are brought up. In general though, sometimes when we rebel against God we know exactly what we're doing and there's no question that it's sin. It might be planned (i.e. we've had time to think about it before we do it) or habitual (i.e. we struggle with the same sin over and over and do nothing about it or try to justify it). Sometimes we don't realize that our behavior is sinful until we recognize that our actions are a reflection of a sinful heart or we make an impulsive decision to sin. The point really is that we all sin and deny Christ in one way or another no matter how badly we do or don't want to.*

### 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?

*Possible Answers: It is symbolic of the fact that Jesus' death is atonement for all of us. We don't have to be free of sin before we can accept Christ's sacrifice for us, in fact it is because we are sinners that Jesus died for us in the first place.*

? 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.

*Possible Answer: Vv. 24-30 When the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest among them He encourages them to shift their understanding of status and authority by seeking servanthood rather than power over others.*

? Optional Question: How are Peter and Judas examples of people who used their authority in Christ and proximity to Christ for good and bad?

*Possible Answer: We see both positive and negative examples of this playing out in the lives of Judas and Peter. Judas is typically thought of as the lowest of the low when it comes to Jesus' disciples, betraying the Savior for an opportunity to increase his wealth - he used his relationship to Jesus to seek earthly status and power through money. In contrast Peter is eventually the person God uses to build the foundation of the Church as he leads the disciples in spreading the Gospel. He is an example of a man who used his position as a disciple to serve others and spread the Gospel, even though it meant he would be repeatedly imprisoned, beaten, and ultimately die for his faith.*

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

*Leader's Note: Please try to curb any "church bashing" that may occur here, rather than it being a helpful exercise in thinking through where they've seen this in their own lives.*

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

*Possible Answers: We should look at leadership in all areas of our life as an opportunity to serve and lift others up. Leadership should not be about self-advancement or worldly success and we need to avoid using the people we are entrusted with leading to continue our advancement. This is true whether we're talking about our jobs, our families, our friendships, etc. It also applies whether it's one person you are leading or a giant group.*

### **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?