

# Reading Luke in Lent



## Gospel of Luke 22:1 - 38

### The Plot to Kill Jesus

<sup>1</sup> Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near,  
which is called the Passover.  
<sup>2</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking  
how to put him to death,  
for they feared the people.

### Judas to Betray Jesus

<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.  
<sup>4</sup> He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers  
how he might betray him to them.  
<sup>5</sup> And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.  
<sup>6</sup> So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

### The Passover with the Disciples

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.  
<sup>8</sup> So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,  
'Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.'  
<sup>9</sup> They said to him, 'Where will you have us prepare it?'  
<sup>10</sup> He said to them, 'Behold, when you have entered the city,  
a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.  
Follow him into the house that he enters  
<sup>11</sup> and tell the master of the house,  
"The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room,  
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'  
<sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.'  
<sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

### Institution of the Lord's Supper

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.  
<sup>15</sup> And he said to them,  
'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.  
<sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'  
<sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,  
'Take this, and divide it among yourselves.  
<sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine  
until the kingdom of God comes.'  
<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,  
'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
<sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,  
'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.  
<sup>21</sup> But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.

22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined,  
but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!  
23 And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

### Who Is the Greatest?

24 A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.  
25 And he said to them,  
‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them,  
and those in authority over them are called benefactors.  
26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest,  
and the leader as one who serves.  
27 For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves?  
Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.  
28 ‘You are those who have stayed with me in my trials,  
29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,  
30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom  
and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

### Jesus Foretells Peter’s Denial

31 ‘Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,  
32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.  
And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.’  
33 Peter said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.’  
34 Jesus said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day,  
until you deny three times that you know me.’

### Scripture Must Be Fulfilled in Jesus

35 And he said to them, ‘When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals,  
did you lack anything?’  
They said, ‘Nothing.’  
36 He said to them, ‘But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack.  
And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.  
37 For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me:  
“And he was numbered with the transgressors.”  
For what is written about me has its fulfillment.’  
38 And they said, ‘Look, Lord, here are two swords.’  
And he said to them, ‘It is enough.’

## Reflection

Three times before in Luke has Jesus sent out his followers in pairs to prepare the way for him. Now he sends Peter and John to prepare the place where they will celebrate a meal. At the end of this section he will recall his instruction to the disciples to go out as he prepares the apostles to make their way in the world. But that is not yet.

In the meal Jesus recalls the passover as he looks forward to his own exodus. The passover was about the liberation from slavery in Egypt. Now Jesus, who from the beginning has sought to set people free, will offer himself as the new passover lamb who through his death and resurrection will establish the new passover and the new covenant.

- From the Magnificat at the beginning of Luke's Gospel and in Jesus's own words a number of time the least are raised up and to be the greatest one has to serve the least.
  - Who in your community needs to be served?
  - Who needs to be raised up?

## Prayer

You have blessed all generations,  
O God most high,  
in Jesus, our compassionate Saviour,  
for through him you invite us to your kingdom,  
welcome us to your table,  
and provide us with nourishment in abundance.

Teach us to imitate your unfailing kindness  
and to build up Christ's body, the Church,  
by generously handing on to others  
the gifts we have received from your bounty.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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