

Luke 22:1-30 — Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

¹ 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.

The Last Supper

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 upper room, 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 of 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 Also a dispute 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.”

Luke 22:1-30

1. What motivated Judas to approach the religious leaders and offer to betray Jesus?
2. Has greed or materialism ever negatively influenced your decisions? Have your selfish desires ever interfered with your relationship with others? With Jesus?
3. In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to temptation? How can you protect yourself against the temptations of this world? Of Satan?
4. Why did Judas watch “for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present?” (Luke 4:28-30)
5. What is the significance of the Passover celebration? What do you think is important to remember about the past? Why?
6. Why did Jesus eagerly desire to eat the Passover meal with his disciples? (22:15-16)
7. What did Jesus instruct his disciples to do in remembrance of him? (22:17-20) Why is it so important for Christians to observe Communion?
8. Why do you believe Jesus chose the elements of bread and wine to represent his body and the new covenant?
9. Some religious denominations require people to complete a course of study and be confirmed (usually around age 16) before they can receive Communion. Other churches allow 3 and 4-year-olds to partake of Communion. What did Jesus teach about this? What do you think?
10. Christians differ in their interpretation of the meaning of Communion. There are four main views: (1) the bread and wine actually become Christ’s body and blood. (2) The bread and wine remain unchanged but Christ is spiritually present by faith in and through them. (3) the bread and wine remain unchanged and are lasting memorials to Christ’s sacrifice. (4) by partaking of the new covenant (Communion) our sins are forgiven. Is one right and the others wrong? Does it really matter? What *is* most important about Communion?
11. The most important event in human history was about to take place, but the disciples were arguing about what? (22:24) Jesus answered them with a familiar theme. What was it? (Matt 19:30, 20:16, Mark 9:35, 10:31, Luke 9:48, James 4:6)

Luke 22:1-30 — Notes to Leader

1. The easy answers, money or Satan's influence, are correct as far as they go, but perhaps there is more to it. After all, Judas was one of the apostles that Jesus himself selected and it is unlikely that Jesus would have chosen someone to represent him who was bad to the core. Judas may have been disillusioned because Jesus was talking about dying rather than setting up his kingdom. Judas may have been trying to force Jesus' hand and make him use his power to prove that he was the Messiah. Alternatively, Judas may have come to believe that Jesus was *not* the Messiah and as an imposter he should be killed.

5. The Passover commemorated the last days of the Jews in Egypt when the blood of a lamb on a doorframe caused God's angels of death to Pass Over that house and not kill the firstborn son as they did to all of the Egyptian families. The event foreshadowed Jesus' work on the cross when his blood would be spilled in order to save believers from the penalty of death brought on by their sins.

10. Most important: Communion should remind you of what Christ did for you.