



Study Guide: Luke – Chapter 22

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Luke Chapter 22 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Luke 22 marks a pivotal moment in the Gospel narrative, transitioning from Jesus' public ministry to the unfolding events leading to His passion and crucifixion. This chapter contributes significantly by detailing the Last Supper, Jesus' prayerful preparation, His arrest, and Peter's denial. Readers should watch for how Luke emphasizes Jesus' control and purpose amid betrayal and suffering, highlighting both divine sovereignty and human frailty.

Context

The immediate literary context places Luke 22 after Jesus' teachings and miracles, now moving toward the climax of His earthly mission. The chapter occurs during the Passover festival in Jerusalem, a covenantal setting rich with Old Testament significance. Key speakers include Jesus, Judas Iscariot, the disciples, and the religious leaders plotting His arrest. The setting shifts from private rooms to the Mount of Olives and then to the high priest's courtyard, framing the narrative within the tension of covenant fulfillment and impending judgment.

Outline

Luke 22 can be divided into several movements that advance the passion narrative. It begins with the plot to arrest Jesus and Judas' agreement to betray Him. This is followed by the preparation and institution of the Lord's Supper, where Jesus establishes a new covenant. Next, Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives, demonstrating His submission to the Father's will. The chapter then recounts Jesus' arrest and the desertion by His disciples. Finally, it concludes with Peter's denial, highlighting human weakness in the face of trial.

Verse-by-Verse Study



Verses 1-3: The chief priests and scribes seek a way to arrest Jesus by stealth, fearing a public uproar during the festival. Judas Iscariot's decision to betray Jesus sets the stage for the unfolding drama.

Verses 4-6: Judas negotiates with the chief priests, agreeing to betray Jesus for money. This act of betrayal fulfills prophetic expectations and reveals human treachery.

Verses 7-13: Jesus instructs His disciples to prepare the Passover meal, emphasizing obedience and readiness. The preparation underscores the transition from the old covenant Passover to the new covenant meal.

Verses 14-20: The Last Supper is instituted. Jesus breaks bread and shares the cup, symbolizing His body and blood given for the new covenant. This moment establishes the Eucharist and redefines covenantal relationship.

Verses 21-23: Jesus reveals that one of the disciples will betray Him, causing distress and prompting reflection on loyalty and human weakness.

Verses 24-30: A dispute arises among the disciples about greatness, which Jesus addresses by teaching servant leadership and promising future reward in His kingdom.

Verses 31-34: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, highlighting the testing of faith and the need for spiritual vigilance.

Verses 35-38: Jesus instructs the disciples to take swords for defense, yet He submits to the Father's will, revealing the tension between human action and divine plan.

Verses 39-46: Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives, expressing anguish and surrender. His prayer models dependence on God amid suffering and the struggle between human desire and divine obedience.

Verses 47-53: Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, leading to His arrest. Jesus' rebuke of violence and His submission to arrest demonstrate His control and fulfillment of Scripture.

Verses 54-62: Peter denies Jesus three times, fulfilling Jesus' prediction. This episode exposes human weakness but also sets the stage for restoration.

Verses 63-65: Jesus is mocked and beaten by the guards, fulfilling the suffering servant motif and intensifying the passion narrative.



Verses 66–71: Jesus stands before the council, affirming His identity as the Son of God. The council’s decision to condemn Him marks the legal and spiritual turning point toward crucifixion.

Key Themes

The theme of betrayal permeates the chapter, illustrating the cost of discipleship and the reality of human sin. Jesus’ institution of the Lord’s Supper introduces the theme of covenant renewal through His sacrificial death. Prayer and submission to God’s will highlight the tension between human emotion and divine purpose. The motif of servant leadership contrasts worldly ambition with kingdom values. Finally, the chapter underscores the fulfillment of prophecy and the sovereignty of God amid apparent defeat.

Cross-References

The betrayal by Judas echoes Psalm 41:9, deepening understanding of Jesus’ experience of treachery. The institution of the Lord’s Supper connects with Jeremiah 31:31–34, where God promises a new covenant written on hearts. Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane parallels His teaching in Matthew 26:39 about submitting to the Father’s will. Peter’s denial recalls Jesus’ earlier prediction in Mark 14:30, emphasizing human weakness. Finally, Jesus’ trial before the council reflects Daniel 7:13–14’s vision of the Son of Man receiving authority, linking His suffering to divine kingship.

Application

Modern disciples are called to recognize the cost of following Christ, including facing betrayal, misunderstanding, and suffering. The Lord’s Supper invites believers into a continual remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice and covenantal love. Prayer in times of trial models dependence on God’s will rather than personal desire. The call to servant leadership challenges contemporary notions of power and success. Peter’s denial serves as a reminder to remain vigilant in faith and to seek restoration when failing. Overall, the chapter encourages trust in God’s sovereign plan amid adversity.

Summary

Luke 22 unfolds the critical moments leading to Jesus’ passion, revealing His deliberate preparation, the establishment of the new covenant, and the human responses of betrayal, fear, and denial. Through prayer and submission, Jesus exemplifies obedience to the Father’s will. The chapter balances divine sovereignty with human responsibility,



setting the stage for the climactic events of the cross. It challenges readers to embrace sacrificial discipleship, grounded in covenantal relationship and empowered by God's grace.