

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“THE PLOT TO DESTROY JESUS”

For individual study or group discussion

From Luke’s earlier account of Jesus’ life, recall how Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness after his baptism (4:1-13). There he is tempted by Satan, who offers him the kingdoms of this world. At the end of the trial, Luke states that Satan, “*departed from him until an opportune time*” (v. 13). The opportune time arrives in Luke 22:1-6. It’s the beginning of Passover, and Christ, along with his disciples, is preparing for the last supper. The irony of this passage should not be lost on believers: the plot to destroy Jesus culminates at the moment God’s people converge upon Jerusalem to celebrate God’s deliverance.

The irony of the plot to destroy Jesus (vv. 1-2)

Opposition to Jesus has been growing since the beginning of his ministry. The religious leaders are “*lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say*” (Luke 11:54). But as his popularity continues to grow, so does their fear. Their schemes to catch him in public have failed. But they haven’t given up. Their hatred for Jesus blinds them as they seek to destroy him. As one commentator states, “*These men hated Jesus. They hated him for his condemnations of their hypocrisy and for claiming that he was God the Son. They hated seeing him teach at the temple. They hated how much influence he had on people, especially during Passover, when so many people were there to influence.*”¹

- Read Leviticus 23:4-14, Deuteronomy 16:16, and Exodus 12. What is the significance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) and what is required of pilgrims during this time?
- Remember Luke 19:45-48 and 20:9-19? The religious leaders are motivated to get rid of Jesus, because he is a threat to their religious establishment. But his influence continues to grow with the people: “*all the people were hanging on his words*” (19:48). Read Psalm 2. How does God respond to those who to plot evil?
- John Calvin reminds us, “*And it is of great importance for us to hold, that Christ was not unexpectedly dragged to death by the violence of his enemies but was led to it by the providence of God; for our confidence in the propitiation is founded on the conviction that he was offered to God as that sacrifice which God had appointed from the beginning. And therefore he determined that his Son should be sacrificed on the very day of the Passover.*”² God had always intended that Christ would be the final Passover lamb. Read Hebrews 10:1-10. Of what did the OT sacrificial system remind God’s people? How is Christ the better sacrifice?

The revealing marks of those who plot to kill Jesus (vv. 2-6)

In verses 2-6, we note that one of the trusted twelve, Judas Iscariot, fell. As a disciple, he would have known Jesus intimately. Despite being Christ’s personal friend, Judas conspired against him. Luke reveals to his readers the character traits of those who would plot to kill Jesus: fear of people (vv. 2, 6), reality of evil (v. 3), operating in secret (v. 4), and presence of greed (v. 5). Matthew Henry warns, “*It is hard to say whether more mischief is done to Christ’s kingdom by the power and policy of its open enemies, or by the treachery and self-seeking of its pretended friends: nay, without the latter its enemies could not gain their point as they do.*”³

- Judas’ betrayal reminds us of the spiritual reality behind those who oppose Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:1-4 and Galatians 5:16-24. When are we in danger of betraying the Lord?
- We are told that Satan entered Judas (v. 3). Read John 12:6. How did Judas’ greed for money open him up to the possibility to betray Christ? Can one resist the devil? How? (See James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9)

DATE: November 24, 2024

SPEAKER: Brian/John Mark

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:1-6

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 12: The Fruit of the Spirit– Joy

PRAYER: Joy of the World, we adore you as the one who fills our hearts with joy because of that great morning of resurrection. We rejoice that you are alive and nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus. By your Spirit and because of the truth of your arrival in the flesh, empower our hearts to leap with the joy of John the Baptist in the womb. Though we have not seen you, fill us with an inexpressible and glorious joy, by faith, until we behold you face to face. Strengthen us to consider it all joy when we face trials of various kinds, because we know that when we have stood the test, we will receive the crown of life that you have promised to your beloved. Teach us to discern, with wisdom and in perseverance, the difference between happiness and joy, comfort and contentment. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. And we ask with great expectation that you, the God of hope, will fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen .

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Charisa and William, supported
missionary partners

¹ Ryken, Philip. *Luke: Reformed Expository Commentary*, Vol. 2. 2009, Philipsburg, NJ. P&R Publishing. 449

² Calvin, John. *Calvin’s Commentaries*, Vol. 16. 1974, Grand Rapids, MI. Baker Books Publishing. 186

³ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible*. <https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary/matthew-henry-complete/luke/22>. November 20, 2024