

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "THE DISCIPLES' DISPUTE"

For individual study or discussion

Immediately following Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper, a debate breaks out among the disciples who are at the table with Jesus. **The disciples' dispute** centers on who should be regarded as the greatest among them. After sharing the sacrament which signifies their vital connection with Christ and each other, it is surprising that the conversation would deviate so quickly into a dispute over status. In Luke 22:24-30, *the disciples' dispute highlights contrasting views of stewarding power* and how in the upside-down Kingdom of God, the truly great person is the one who, like Christ, serves and shares his power with others.

#### Worldly stewardship of power (vv. 24-25)

As the disciples argue over which of them should be regarded as the greatest, Jesus instructs them to think about the Gentile kings (v. 25). Political leaders (then and now) covet prestige and power. Too often, leaders feign concern for the needs of the people under their authority. Like the Gentile kings, they call themselves "benefactors" when they primarily strive to benefit themselves while taking from those they should be serving. Jesus did not want his followers to fall prey to the lure of worldly power and prestige.

- Review Luke 22. Compare Judas (vv. 3-6), Jesus (vv. 7-23), and the disciples (vv. 24). What are they each concerned about?
- Read Luke 9:23-24, John 13:34, and Philippians 2:3-11. According to Jesus, how does one grow in greatness?
- What power structures are you tempted by? How have you lived this out (consciously or subconsciously) in your work, relationships, family, or even in how you relate to God?

#### Kingdom stewardship of power (vv. 26-27)

In the upside-down Kingdom of God, those who give their lives away in selfless service are considered the greatest. Jesus is teaching his followers that true power comes from giving it away. Immediately, our minds think that this lesson is only for those with position and rank. But according to theologian J. C. Ryle, "*The hero in Christ's army, is not the man who has rank, and title, and dignity, and chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. It is the man who does not seek his own things—but the things of others. The greatness which Christ commended is within the reach of all! All have not learning, or abilities, or money. But all can minister to the happiness of those around them, by passive or by active graces. All can be useful—and all can be kind. There is a grand reality in constant kindness. It makes the men of the world think.*"<sup>1</sup>

- In Matthew 20:28, we read that "*the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" Jesus is the preeminent servant. He gave away glory, power, and privilege to save us. Read Isaiah 53. Describe how Jesus suffered for our sakes.
- Read John 13:1-20. Discuss John's account of the Passover preparation. How do Christ's actions underscore the upside-down character of the Kingdom of God?

#### The King's gracious gift of power (vv. 28-30)

Even in their moment of weakness, Jesus graciously commends the disciples for their loyalty (v. 28). They stood by him in the midst of the most difficult of times of his ministry. He praises them while knowing that Peter will deny him, and the disciples will desert him, going into hiding after the crucifixion. But later, emboldened by his resurrection, they will stand with Him, even in the face of death, in order to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of their faithfulness, Jesus promises to share his heavenly power with them, promising that they will "*sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*"

- In a world where power grabs are commonplace, what would it look like for you to live like Christ and share your power within your home, your marriage, your workplace, and your community?

DATE: January 19, 2025

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:24-30

### RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

#### DAY 19: The Fruit of the Spirit—Self-Control

**PRAYER:** Father God of grace, we confess to you our profound lack of self-control. If we are honest, we'd much rather control the actions of those around us, instead of stewarding our own choices. Our urges and desires hold sway over us even when we promise that they won't. We struggle to restrain our tongues, our appetites, and even our careless whims. But your Son, when hungry and tempted with food from the devil, chose the Word of God instead. When tempted to test his father's love for peace of mind, he rested in God's will for him. When tempted by false glory, he chose what is holy instead of what was easy. Give us the resilience to do the same, and a reliance on your Spirit that we might bear Kingdom fruit. We don't want to conform; we long to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Cause us to love and serve those around us humbly, instead of being slaves to our own cravings. Inspire us to cling to your Word in times of temptation and look for the promised way out that you always provide. Make us shine like stars so that others around us will see Jesus. And help us to see your Word as our food and your will as our comfort. In the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

##### Prison Prevention Ministries

(PPM), supported partner ministry

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Debbie and Neal, supported

missionary partners

<sup>1</sup>Ryle, J.C. *Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Luke*. <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/l22.htm>. January 14, 2025.