

Luke 22:31-62 — Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial; Instructs the Apostles

³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

³³ But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

³⁵ Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they answered.

³⁶ He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷ It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

³⁸ The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That is enough,” he replied.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Jesus Betrayed and Arrested

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Peter Denies Knowing Jesus

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

⁵⁷ But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

⁶⁰ Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”

⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:31-62

1. What did Jesus mean when he used the metaphor, “Satan has asked to sift you as wheat” in Verse 22:31?
2. Jesus predicted that one disciple would betray him (Mark 14:18) and one would deny him (Luke 22:34). Aren’t both sins equally bad? Why the big difference in the fate of Peter and Judas?
3. In Verses 22:35-36, why did Jesus reverse his earlier advice to his disciples on how to travel in Verse 9:3?
4. (Verses 39-46) What can we learn from Jesus’ example dealing with difficult circumstances in his life? How do you think God wants you to respond to painful events in you life? What role should prayer play in times of trouble?
5. For what situation in your life *right now* do you need to say to God, “Not my will, but yours be done”?
6. (Verses 47-53) How would you compare Jesus’ attitudes and actions with those of his disciples? His enemies? What impresses you most about him?
7. What did Jesus mean when he said to the priests, officers, and elders, “this is your hour—when darkness reigns”? (22:53)
8. What principles for dealing with difficult and stressful circumstances do you see in Jesus’ example? How do you respond when you face a difficult situation?
9. Is there some way you could prepare yourself *now* for future stresses and uncertainties? What could or should you do now?
10. What would make Peter deny that he knew Jesus, when earlier he said he was willing to die for him?
11. (Verses 54-62) When have you ever done something because of peer pressure, then later regretted it? What can you do to stand against peer pressure to do things you know are wrong?
12. We learn a lot about Peter in these verses. Do you see yourself anything like Peter? Which apostle do you most closely resemble? (Matthew 10:2-4)

Luke 22:31-62 — Notes for Leader

1. “Sift you as wheat” meant that Satan wanted to crush Peter and the other disciples like grains of wheat and hopefully find only chaff and blow it away. But Jesus assured Peter that his faith would not fail and he would be able to help others.

12. Matt 10:2-4 – These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The Bible doesn't tell us much (or anything) about some of the apostles. You might want to ask the people in your study what they know about each. (Or just ask them to name the 12, which actually varies in the different Gospel accounts). Here are some key facts:

Peter Jesus called him the rock (John 1:42) hot-headed (John 18:10), leader

Andrew found the lad with loaves and fishes (John 6:8-9)

James (son of Zebedee) in the inner circle (Mk 9:2) suffered for Christ (Mk 10:38)

John called himself the disciple Jesus loved

Philip tested him about feeding the crowd (John 6:5)

Bartholomew possibly the same person as Nathaniel (John 1:45-51)

Thomas had doubts about Jesus (John 20:25)

Matthew was a tax collector (Matt 9:9) Wrote the first Gospel

James (son of Alphaeus) Brother of Jesus, author of the epistle of James

Thaddaeus traditionally also identified as Judas or Jude

Simon the Zealot known as a zealot (Luke 6:15)

Judas Iscariot the only non-Galilean, greedy (John 12:6), betrayed Christ (Luke 22:48)