

The Gospel According to Luke

PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

PART 12

Coming to the End

READ: LUKE 22:1-13

INTRODUCTION

As the Feast of Unleavened Bread, also known as Passover, draws near, the religious leaders are plotting to kill Jesus. However, they fear the crowds who are drawn to Him. In the midst of this, Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus, setting into motion the events that will lead to His arrest and crucifixion. Judas, one of Jesus' own disciples, makes a deal with the religious leaders, allowing greed and selfish ambition to take root in his heart. This act of betrayal reminds us that even those closest to Jesus can turn away when their hearts are not fully devoted to Him.

Meanwhile, Jesus is making preparations for the Passover meal. He sends Peter and John ahead with specific instructions to find a man carrying a jar of water who will lead them to the location where they will celebrate the meal. This moment demonstrates Jesus' complete control over the situation—nothing is happening by chance. He knows exactly what needs to be done and provides every detail necessary for the disciples to follow His instructions. Even in the face of betrayal, He is guiding events according to God's perfect plan. This is a powerful reminder that no matter how chaotic things may seem, God is always sovereign and in control.

The significance of the Passover cannot be overlooked. This was a time when the Jewish people remembered God's deliverance from Egypt, yet now Jesus was about to become the ultimate Passover Lamb, bringing salvation not just to Israel but to all who believe in Him. The preparations for this meal symbolize the greater preparation Jesus is making for His sacrifice on the cross. His focus remains on obedience to the Father's will, even as darkness closes in around Him. This passage challenges us to consider our own role in God's unfolding plan. Are we submitting to His will, like Peter and John, or are we allowing sin and selfishness to guide our actions, like Judas? Are we trusting in God's sovereignty, even when things seem uncertain? Just as Jesus prepared for what was to come, we too must prepare our hearts daily to walk in obedience and trust in His perfect timing.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why were the religious leaders afraid to arrest Jesus openly? What does this reveal about their motives?
2. What do we learn about Judas' heart from his willingness to betray Jesus? How can we guard against similar temptations?
3. How does Jesus' detailed instruction to Peter and John show His authority and sovereignty?
4. Why is it significant that Jesus was intentional about preparing for the Passover meal? What does this teach us about obedience?
5. How can we actively trust in God's plans, even when we don't fully understand them?

WRAP UP

Luke 22:1-13 gives us a glimpse of both human sinfulness and divine sovereignty. The religious leaders plot in secret, and Judas chooses betrayal, yet Jesus remains fully in control, ensuring that God's plan unfolds exactly as intended. Are we actively seeking to follow Jesus with obedience and trust? Or are we allowing distractions and temptations to pull us away from Him? Let's choose to be faithful, trusting in God's perfect plan, even when the path ahead is unclear.