

Lesson Eight

Hope in the Lord

Luke Chapters 22, 23 & 24

Lesson 8 of 8

Through the Gospel of Luke

By

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Podcast of Lessons available at www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
by Edward Mote, 1797-1874

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When every earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Small Group Discussion Time

Review of Lesson Seven: 18:1-21:38

Group Guidelines

- ♥ We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences.
 - 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible for this study.
 - 🕒 Avoid all commentaries or study notes in your Bible. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
 - 👍 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
 - ✓ This isn't a personal opinion study. This is a Bible study. So, there are going to be "right" and "wrong" answers. Try your best and have a humble and teachable spirit.
 - 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and even questions. I bet you have something great to share! 😊
 - 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down answers as others share.
 - ⌚ Be considerate of your "slice of the pie" and how much time you are taking to talk. Share your thoughts, and allow time for others to do the same. Please save anecdotes and for social time. Guard your group time for the Word and learning.
 - 🕒 Watch the time. Please return to our teaching session on time. (7:40pm for the evening group or 10:40am for the morning group)
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1. **Open in Prayer**
 2. **Welcome new members 😊 We're Glad You're Here!**
 3. **Circulate the Attendance Page & Prayer Journal**
 4. **Review and Discuss the previous week's Bible study. Save other topics for later.**
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Review the *** and any others from Lesson 7

Need more?

- *Mid-Session Study* - meets next week at this same time - dig deeper, discuss, complete a lesson with guidance and get answers to your questions.
- *Live Daily Study with Jennifer* – Join the Bible study live 6:30-7:15am on our "LMCC Women" Facebook page. Each study is recorded for you to listen at your convenience on the Dwelling Richly podcast.
- *Dwelling Richly podcast* – Listen to the recorded study sessions and teaching at your convenience on your phone or computer at www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or download any podcast app and search "Dwelling Richly."

Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson Six

Faithful to the End

Luke chapters 18-21

...Notes...

Welcome!

START HERE → Whether this is your first time going through a group Bible study, or you're a seasoned Bible study expert, I believe you'll be refreshed and encouraged as you read God's Word.

In these lessons, we'll look at God's Word and see God's plan and how He sees us – as well as our view of God - how we see Him. Through the pages of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation the story of God has a constant theme, and the theme revolves around God's plan to redeem us through His Son, Jesus. Since the dawn of time and man's fall from grace in the Garden, we've been looking for hope. And yet, with all the looking and longing don't we each know someone dear to our heart who has lost their hope? Perhaps even you have felt a sense of hopelessness to some degree in your own life.

This study grew out of my own personal experience with losing hope and finding it again. My story brought me through the pain of infertility, struggles with depression, an abusive marriage, and the destructive impact of addiction. For years, I walked through my days under the cover of "Christian" woman and wife...but I had a nagging sense in my heart that there was really no hope for healing in my life and relationships. I believed in the big picture of hope - That God had redeemed us all - that there was a future and a hope for all who called on His name - that one day all would be made right. Hope in God for the big stuff? No problem. But in my day-to-day life, I had lost hope on a smaller scale. Hope for me. For my marriage. For my heart. Hope for me on a personal level? I had all but let that go. I've learned a lot through my journey, and I'm still learning so much every day. I'm looking forward to sharing in God's Word with you!

Let's grow together!

We'll be writing and digging into the Scripture together. Each time we gather you'll receive the new week's study materials to add to this notebook. You'll want to have the following with you during the week as well as at our Bible study get togethers:

- Your Bible – I recommend the English Standard Version
- A Journal – or pages added to this notebook to journal in
- Pen and highlighter

In my role as a women's pastor I get asked a lot of questions, but there's one in regard to Bible study that comes over and over: "What do you use to help you study the Bible?"

That's a great question! Here's what I use...

- A Bible – This may seem self-evident, but it's important that you have a Bible that is a translation and not a paraphrase. "The Message," the "Living Bible," "New International Readers Version" (NIRV) are among the easy-to-read paraphrases that are helpful for general reading but not for Bible study.

And these websites:

- BlueLetterBible.com
- BibleGateway.com
- StudyLight.org

You could purchase any one of a number of excellent commentaries, dictionaries, and lexicons, but all the ones I use are freely accessible at the above websites and even on your phone as an app! Go, have fun, and check some out. A great way to start is to go to their home page and type a word like "hope," and do a search on it.

How is this study organized?

We meet January through May. During that time, there are eight lessons that will cover the 24 chapters of Luke. This works out to about a chapter and a half every week. Each of the eight lessons are organized to give you structured time daily to pray, read, and study the Bible. There are usually 13 days in between our meetings. Here is a sample of how those days are organized for you:

DAY:

1. Attend the Study – Fellowship with your small group and hear the talk

2. Active Reading (you'll see the suggested approach each in your lesson) through the passages we'll be covering for the next few days.
- 3-5. Complete the study questions and reading for each day.
6. Active Reading
- 7-9. Complete the study questions and reading for each day. One of these days is a perfect time to get together with your small group for a social. Coffee? Park day? Lunch?
10. Active Reading
- 11-14. Complete the study questions and reading for each day.
15. Welcome back! We've missed you!

*****Don't miss this...*****

As you complete each day of the study, you'll note some questions are marked with three asterisks: *** When you see these, you can make special effort to answer that question as it will be one that we'll refer to when we come together for our small group time. So, if you're short on time, definitely do these!

How should I approach my study time?

Listen. Look. Live.

Listen. As you read you are not only seeing the words of God but are listening to what He has said. Each study session is created to give you time in the Word – just you and God. No commentaries. No explanations. This might seem hard for you if you're brand new to reading the Bible, but it's a skill you'll develop. I'm confident of that. Pray before you begin –not sure how? Read Psalm 119:18, Proverbs 1:7 or James 1:5 – then read the Bible passage and follow that lesson's notes to guide you in thinking through and understanding what you've read. Then...

Look. Look again at the Word and make some observations to understand deeper. What figures of speech are there to understand? What about the culture of the time? Are there any allegories? Who was the intended audience? Who was the writer? The Bible was written largely from a Hebrew Middle Eastern mindset – that's very different from our 21st century western mindset! We'll want to understand the Scripture from the author's point of view and not through the lens of this modern era and our sensitivities. Use your journal to write these observations down.

Live. It's tempting to start here, right? We want to know how exactly these verses apply to our own lives. But while all of Scripture was written for you, it was not all written **to you**. If you start here, you'll make a common mistake in overly-applying passages to yourself that weren't meant for you at all. So, this "live" approach is the final not the first step. After you Listen to God, Look at His word in all that it means you can ask, "What does it all mean for me personally?" Clearly, the nature of this study is to not only understand verses or just see examples of how to live in the Bible, but to move from the words on the page through our hearts and out into our lives. God's word isn't just a great book. It's not inspirational literature or self-help. Remember...God's Word is alive and powerful. It's sharper than a sword as it slices to the core of our hearts and reveals what's really true about us in light of who God says we are. How empty it would be to first approach the Word with a "what can this do for me today?" mentality! And yet, we also must not just read to understand...we must read to apply. And that will mean making a shift in our thinking and most likely a change in our behavior as well. Not every verse was written to you, but every word was written for you, and there's a difference. One of my favorite Bible teachers, Kay Arthur, says it this way:
"When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life."

What can you expect?

This is a Bible study. Simply put, we'll be studying the Bible.

We'll Read the Bible. We'll Write from the Bible. We'll prayerfully Respond to the Bible.

This study is organized around our bi-weekly meetings. There are at least 13 days between each of our group Bible studies. I've set up this study the lessons will take about 30 minutes each to complete. Don't be discouraged if it takes you longer. Some days will be a little longer than others. If you read through your study, taking time for church, your Life Group, or other mid-week study, you'll find it much better than doing the entire study the day before we meet! You have 168 hours in your week...imagine if you tithed (giving 10%) from your time. That would be 16.8 hours a week in study...that's more than two hours a day! What if you gave even 5% of your time? Or 3%? Just set aside the time, and you'll be so happy you did.

By the way, don't think you're the only one who gets behind and has to do all that catch-up the day before...or the day of! It happens to me too! And never, ever skip coming to our study because you didn't do the study...come!! We have great fellowship and teaching for you to receive! Why not pray right now and ask the Father to help you make time and priority for this study? Pace yourself and get an accountability partner to help so you stay committed to being in the Word daily.

Are you ready?

I am! I have prayed over every moment of time in my preparations, and I have prayed for you, dear sister, as well. My heart is that we would come away from our time of Bible study not just with a better understanding of the gospel of Luke, but that we would above all things know our Father and His truth.

So, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31

Ready to be free? Me too! Let's abide in His Word together! See you soon, and until then, know that you are loved and prayed for,

Jennifer Richmond

Women's Pastor, La Mirada Christian Church

p.s. You can reach me at Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com or 562.755.4964

I am happy to meet with you should you ever need to talk, share your heart – or a cup of coffee! – or get some input on an issue. Also, if you're new to Bible study, you might like to do a few lessons with a friend...that's me! Don't hesitate to ask for a little help.... or a lot! I'm here for you.

~ ACTS Prayer Model ~

God wants to speak to you through His Word as you read each day. Take time to ready your heart and mind by praying. James 1:5 gives us a great reminder of God's heart:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him."

God wants you to understand and apply His Word – that takes wisdom. Pray before you begin that God would give you wisdom to understand His Word. Mark this verse in your Bible. We'll come back to it often.

A simple guide for structuring your prayer is to think of Luke's second book: ACTS

A — Adoration

God, you are great and good!

C — Confession

I need you and I confess I cannot do this on my own. I confess I have sinned [in this area].

T — Thanksgiving

Thank you for all you have done and are doing in my life!

S — Supplication

Please supply my need for wisdom as I read and understand your Word today.

... Active Reading Notes Page ...

Use this table as an **example** of how to take notes on the "Active Reading" days in this study

VERSE	WHO	WHAT	WHEN/WHERE	QUESTIONS THOUGHTS

— Day One —

Read and take notes through Luke chapter 22
Today is an Active Reading Day

— Day Two —

Luke 22:1-6

... Open with Prayer ...

Review **Luke 22:1-6** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson. Add any notes or comments to your Active Reading notes you've already taken. Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled in the 1st coming of Jesus. We'll be focusing on many of those that were fulfilled in the last week of His life. As you complete this study look for these prophecies then go to the last page and complete the chart as you are able. At the end of this study you'll have a full page of prophecies that were fulfilled!

1. God uses unlikely people to accomplish His will. When we think of unlikely people God can use, who are some of the men or women that come to mind? List two or three men or women from Luke thus far who you would categorize as "unlikely" and why:
2. **Luke 22:1** Luke describes the "Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near." Read Matthew 26:2 and Mark 14:1 and note how far from this Feast we are: _____
3. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is also called _____ (Luke 22:1)

Note #1 About Passover

Passover is one of three annual feasts where Jewish men were commanded by God to come to Jerusalem. As a result, Jerusalem would fill to capacity during this time. Some historical records set the possible number of people in Jerusalem increasing by as much as two million! Passover is the time of remembering God's miraculous delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. At that time, you may recall, God unleashed plagues to compel the stubborn Pharaoh to release His people. The last of these plagues was the death of every firstborn. In Exodus 12, God gave specific instructions to the Jews so that their firstborn child would be protected. The blood of a perfect lamb was to be shed and its blood was to be placed on the doorposts of their homes as a sign to the angel of God to pass over - hence the name "Passover" - their home. Four days before the lamb's blood was shed, they were to take the lamb into their home and observe it for blemishes. Jesus observed the Passover every year of His life with His family. He also observed the Passover with His disciples every year of His ministry. However, this particular Passover would be unique in many respects. As we continue, look for some exciting fulfillments of the Passover in the life of Jesus.

4. **Luke 22:2** What specifically are the chief priests and scribes seeking to make happen? Why?
5. Is it unusual behavior for these leaders to "fear the people?" Explain. (Not sure? Read **Luke 20:19**)
6. **Review Luke 12:1-12.** Note the topic of each of the following portions of that passage:
12:1-3
Warning against whom? _____ Why? _____

What will happen as a result of their behavior?

12:4-7 – Jesus transitions from this warning against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees into a warning about what? Warning against whom? _____ (Why?)

How does Jesus encourage them?

12:8-12 – Jesus then goes on to talk about acknowledging Him or not acknowledging Him and the consequences/rewards of either action. Paraphrase what Jesus says in verses 8-12:

Hang on to the concept of these verses. They will come up again over the next few days in our study.

7. **Luke 22:3-6** describes the sinister actions of one of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot. What else do we know about Judas up to this point? Note any details given about him in these passages:

Luke 6:16 -

John 6:60-71 -

John 12:1-8 -

Also, Judas is from Kerioth. His full name, "Judas Iscariot" means Judas from Kerioth. His home was a small village in southern Judea. Interestingly, Judas is the only one of the apostles from outside of Galilea.

8. In **John 6:67** Jesus asks a question basically giving the disciples their "out." What does He ask? (Be sure to have read the context of this engagement.)
9. From **John 6:70**...Who chose "The Twelve?" _____
What does Jesus refer to Judas as in the passage from John 6 above? _____
*Make a note of this in your Bible and lesson. We'll come back to this on **Day 6**.*
10. **Luke 22:3** – What happens at the beginning of verse three? _____
11. What does this mean? Was Judas demon possessed? If so, was he responsible for his actions? Write your thoughts, even if you're not totally sure. Support your answer with Scripture. We'll go into this more in a couple of questions, but for now, write your thoughts:
12. Did Jesus know about Judas' betrayal all along? If so, why did He select Judas as a disciple? Again, do some thinking and Scripture searching, but go ahead and write your initial thoughts about this:

We have read about Jesus' encounters with demonic activity since the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. In fact, the first miracle recorded in Luke's gospel was the healing of a man with a demon (Luke 4:31ff). Jesus also taught clearly about the potential of an unclean spirit returning (Luke 11:24ff). Let's ask some questions about Judas and this situation and look to God's Word for the answers:

13. In spite of Satan entering him, did Judas make a conscience choice to betray Jesus? Explain. **Luke 22:6, Luke 22:48**
14. What was the state of Judas' heart? - **John 12:6**
15. What did Jesus know about the state of Judas' heart and his potential for repenting? - **John 6:70, John 17:12**

16. What role did Judas' act of betrayal play in God's sovereign plan? –
Prophecies: Psalm 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13 **Fulfillments:** Matthew 20:18 and 26:20-25, Acts 1:16,20
17. How are people who truly have Christ in their lives characterized? **1 Peter 1:5**
18. Can Satan touch someone who is born of God? **1 John 5:18**
19. Is it difficult for you to think that someone who was in Jesus' inner circle – The Twelve – could go so horribly astray? Why or why not? Use examples from your own life and/or from Scripture to support your answer.

Review Luke 22:4-6 and read Matthew 26:14-16

20. With whom does Judas meet and how do they respond?
21. We know from other gospel accounts how much money Judas was given. How much? _____
22. Whose plan is unfolding here? God's? Satan's? Whose? Does God want Jesus to die or does Satan? Consider what Jesus said to Peter right after He predicts His death in **Matthew 16:21-23**. Write Jesus' words here:
- What was Peter NOT DOING? _____
With this in mind, whose plan is it that must unfold? _____
23. Who is God using to unfold this ultimate plan, then? _____
24. ***Go back to your answer in question #1 about the "unlikely people" that God uses. Did Judas make your list? _____ Should he? Why or why not?

...In Closing...

For three years Judas traveled with Jesus and the other eleven disciples. He was among the ones sent to "proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal." He was among those who saw lepers healed. He saw Lazarus raised from the dead. He not only witnessed the miracles, but he sat under Jesus' teaching – up close, personalized, powerful! Judas was in a place where I have often longed to have been – right at the feet of our sweet Lord and Savior, Jesus. And yet...

In preparing this study I realized that of all the disciples, Peter was called out – strongly rebuked by Jesus. John and James were both rebuked by Jesus. But Judas? Never. Not one time in all the season of traveling, walking ministry was Judas rebuked. In the very end, after Jesus' teaching ministry is concluded, Jesus rebukes him when he feigns concern for the poor. Even then, Jesus doesn't rebuke him with the same fervor He did with Peter. Peter was an unlikely disciple in his rough and impetuous behavior. James and John were loud and quick to condemn – they were the "Sons of Thunder." Then there was Judas who we find out later from John's gospel had been taking money from their small supply and finally took money to betray the Master. None of the disciples suspected anything about Judas was amiss. In fact, he may have appeared to be the one who had it all together, after all, they had entrusted him with what little money they had. But the whole time, something had been brewing in his heart. Maybe it was the first time Jesus predicted His death. Maybe Judas started doubting that Jesus was the kind of Messiah he wanted. Maybe it was when Jesus told rich ruler to give away all he had? Judas loved money. Perhaps he was disturbed by the waste. Perhaps it was the parable about the minas? Giving those who already had ten even more plus ten cities to rule. Maybe it was the parable of the Prodigal Son that bothered him. He questioned the fairness of the "bad" son wasting all that money and still being received joyfully while the obedient son didn't get a big feast?

Surely parables and teachings like this had begun to erode the heart of someone like Judas who loved money so much. Friend, where is your heart today? Are you a follower of Jesus, but you still struggle with some of these parables and teachings? Do you ever question how or why God allows things to happen in the way they do? You're in good company if you do. King David did as well (Psalm 10, 42, 43, 44, 88, etc.). But David, like Peter, James, John, and all the other true

disciples, had something that Judas lacked – a willingness to have their struggling heart searched and rebuked by God. In Psalm 51, after committing adultery and murder, David cries out to God, “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit in me. Cast me not from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.”

It is my belief that Judas was ultimately disillusioned by Jesus because He wasn’t the kind of Messiah he wanted. Like the Pharisees and other religious leaders and even the zealots (who some scholars think Judas was from), Judas and the other disciples were expecting a king, a leader, a deliverer who would overthrow Rome and bring God’s kingdom now. They wanted another earthly king. So, Judas follows his heart instead of following Jesus, and the rest is, well, history. Today, pray with David to have God “create in you a clean heart” and give you a renewed spirit – a spirit that follows God’s heart and not your own.

The following is an optional “dig deeper” section for those who would like learn more about the back story, details, and motivations of those who wanted Jesus’ death.

Jesus has hundreds of followers, scores of disciples, 12 apostles, and who knows how many enemies. We can list the enemies at least by category. Note what you think that each group perceives that they might have to gain if Jesus dies or lose if Jesus lives.

➤ **Matthew 2:4; Luke 19:47; Luke 20:1-3; John 11:49-50**

The c_____ p_____ Appointed by Herod for a one-year term. The high priest was Caiaphas. He gave a fascinating, and unintended prophecy in John 11:49-50. What did he prophecy? _____
Why did he suggest this? _____
The first time they are mentioned in the gospels is in Matthew 2:4 on what occasion? _____

What do they stand to Gain/Lose? What is their motivation?

➤ **Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21-30; Luke 6:7; Luke 11:53**

The s_____ and P_____ (or Teachers of the Law) They were Torah scholars charged with the responsibility of interpreting the Law. They are also mentioned along with the chief priest whom Herod had assembled after Jesus’ birth.

What do they stand to Gain/Lose? What is their motivation?

➤ **John 7:40-52 (This is an intriguing account!); Luke 22:4**

The o_____ These are temple “police” from the tribe of Levi. Their captain meets with the chief priests and Judas to determine a way to capture Jesus when he is not surrounded by the crowds.

What do they stand to Gain/Lose? What is their motivation?

➤ **Matthew 15:2; Luke 9:22; Luke 20:1**

The e_____ They are members of the Sanhedrin – the council of seventy-one Jewish sages who constituted the supreme court and legislative body in Judea.

What do they stand to Gain/Lose? What is their motivation?

— Day Three —

Luke 22:7-23

... Open with Prayer ...

Review **Luke 22:7-23** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson.

1. **Luke 22:7** What day is this and what happens on this day? (As for days of the week, this is Thursday.)
2. **Luke 22:8-13** and **Luke 19:28-35** Note any parallels between these two accounts and in particular, what they tell you about the heart of Jesus:
3. **Luke 22:8** Who prepared the Passover? _____ and _____

Personal Note: I have prepared over 30 Passover meals. The smallest group I've served was about 15 and the largest was 170! When I read this verse, and saw that Jesus picked two men to prepare the meal it really stood out to me. Why? Because prepping a meal like this is no small task! And prepping like this is normally done by the women! They would have had to have shopped for the unleavened bread, wine, bitter herbs, charoses, and the roasted lamb. The room they found would need to have serving plates and bowls and cups...this was not something that was done at the last minute! We don't get any of the details other than Peter and John doing the preparations and finding the man with the water pitcher to use his room, but trust me, there was a lot more involved than just showing up and everything was all done!

4. **Luke 22:14** "When the hour came..." **Read Leviticus 23:4-8** and compare it to "the hour" that Jesus is now observing Passover with His disciples.

Note #2 About Passover

The hour that Passover was to begin was sunset on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. This very hour was set 1,200 years prior when God instructed His people how they were to get ready for their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The Passover, as we covered in Day Two, was a feast ordained by God that had significance for the those who originally observed it, but it, like all the feasts, was a "shadow of things to come" (Col. 2:17). Every element ordained by God in the original feast pointed to the future fulfillment in Jesus. Every year of Jesus' life He would have observed the Passover. First, as a young child growing up with His family in Nazareth. Then as He began His ministry. Every year He kept every feast and He did or will fulfill every one as well. Now, this particular Passover has arrived and Jesus is filled with desire and longing to eat it with His disciples. In Amos 3:7 God said through His prophet, "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets." So, we can look back at the prophecies and see their fulfillment as they come to be.

There are four spring feasts, a three-month break, and then three fall feasts on the Jewish calendar. These feasts of the Lord are all described in Leviticus chapter 23.

5. **Exodus 12:1-11** What does God tell the people to do in order to observe this first Passover? Note the timing, the food, and the manner in which it was to be eaten/observed.

v. 6 When? (timing - day and time of day) _____ (The month was Nisan/Abib)

v. 8 What? (foods)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

v. 11 How? (manner)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

6. This event is described also by Paul in **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**. Read this passage and summarize Paul's words about Jesus:

Paul makes a spiritual connection between the old Passover (from Exodus 12, Leviticus 23) and the new one instituted by Jesus on this very night. Remember, Jesus has come, not to abolish the Law but to what?
_____ (**Matthew 5:17**)

In fact, Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit all are fulfillments of the feasts set up by God and given to the Jews upon their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. There are four feasts fulfilled already by Jesus, but there are a total of seven feasts – will these be fulfilled by Jesus? I've included a chart at the end of this lesson for your reference. As we complete this study add the events we come across to this chart. You'll be excited to see the fulfillments in Jesus as we read!

7. **Luke 22:15** What are Jesus' words to His disciples about how He's feeling as they recline for the Passover? Write them here then underline them in your Bible:

Note: "eagerly desired" is translated from the Greek "Ἐπιθυμία ἐπεθύμησα" (Epithymia epethymēsa) meaning "with desire I have desired." It is a double statement which makes it strong and very emotional.

8. Jesus instituted the first Passover and here He is now not only fulfilling Passover, but instituting the meal as **His Meal** – Communion, Eucharist – a memorial we, as believers, observe to this day and a memorial that He says He will not eat of again until when? _____ (**Luke 22:16**)
9. **Luke 22:16** – Look at His strong words in verse 16 again. It's impossible to miss the strength and emphasis if you read it in the Greek. He says, "For I tell you, I will _____ until..." Underline "not eat it" in your Bible and in your notes.

In the Greek, the phrase reads: "οὐκέτι οὐ μὴ" (ouketi ou mē) meaning literally I will "no longer, never ever, ever, ever..." eat this Passover again. It is the final Passover for Him and for all. He's emphasizing this so we can understand that He is bringing something new for us to commemorate.

10. Read **Luke 22:16** and **Luke 22:18**. What phrase is common to both? _____

So, we should take note that while Passover is over in the way the Jews had observed it since the Exodus, it will come again! When? Highlight the phrase you just wrote ↗

11. What did the first Passover remind us of? Read **Exodus 12:25-27**

The first Passover pointed us back to Moses and the Old Covenant.

12. What will this final Passover remind us of? Read **Ezekiel 45:21** and **Revelation 20:1-6** along with **1 Corinthians 11:24**

This Passover will be a memorial to point us back to Jesus' and the New Covenant as well as forward to the reign of Jesus.

*You can look ahead at tomorrow's passage and see that Jesus refers to this in **Luke 22:28**.*

NOTE: There are three primary views of these eschatological (end times) prophetic passages (Ezekiel 45, Revelation 20, etc.): Premillennial, Postmillennial, and Amillennial. The view I am supporting is the Premillennial view. This view refers to the interpretation of prophecy that takes Scripture literally. Jesus will return at some point and inaugurate a reign of 1000 years. In the Postmillennial, Jesus is believed to return after the 1000 years. In the Amillennial view, the 1000 years is held symbolically, and we are currently in that time. There are highly regarded scholars who have wrestled with these prophecies. If it interests you at this time, I'd encourage you to study the views further and come to an understanding of your own.

Paul, the apostle, wrote the letter to the church at Corinth and shared what Jesus had taught him personally. It's interesting to note that Paul's letter to the church was written BEFORE Luke wrote this gospel. Luke wrote his gospel 30 years AFTER Jesus' ascension. So, for the years since, the disciples had been observing the Passover meal in the manner that Jesus laid it out for them, and Paul describes it in his letter to the church.

13. What does Paul say about the Lord's Supper in **1 Corinthians 11:23-27**?

Who taught Paul about this? _____

Describe the elements as Paul lists them:

What aspects from Paul's words do you read also in Jesus' words back in Luke 22?

In **Exodus 12**, the Israelites were commanded to keep the Passover as a memorial of **their deliverance from Egypt**. In **Luke 22** as well as the reminder in **1 Corinthians 11**, we are commanded to keep the Passover as a remembrance of? (**1 Cor. 11:25-26**) _____

14. **Luke 22:17** What does Jesus take and what does He say/do before taking it?

The prayer of thanks may very well have been the traditional Hebrew prayer that goes like this:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, e-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-ray p'ree ha-ga-fen. Amen

Blessed are you, O LORD our God, King of the universe, who makes the fruit of the vine. Amen

The Passover tradition had grown and been added to since it was first instituted back in Exodus. In the Exodus account, you noted on question #5 the when and what and how of that original observance. The Jews were told to keep this as a "memorial day...throughout your generations, as a statute forever..." (Ex. 12:14) And they did and still do to this day. But throughout the years the festival grew with special traditions added to it as a sort of way to increase its significance and codify the whole special meal. So, when Jesus "took a cup" and gave thanks, this was a cup that was part of the added aspects of this meal. There were four cups actually and each cup was taken to remind them of an aspect of their deliverance (see the note below.) Also, they were commanded to eat the meal in haste back in Exodus because their exit from Egypt was imminent, but after that deliverance, they ate the meal at a regular pace. Actually, because of the many elements they added, the meal is far from hasty! It can last upwards of three hours! I know this first-hand since our family observes the Passover every year. It's always a minimum of three-hour event!

This cup that Jesus took was one of four cups of wine that the Jews drank at the Passover meal. The four cups of Passover are an integral part of the Passover celebration. They stand for each of the four promises the Lord makes to His people in Exodus 6:6-7...

- 1) **The Cup of Sanctification** – This is the cup at the opening of the meal that Jesus mentions in Luke 22:17
"I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
- 2) **The Cup of Deliverance**
"I will rescue you from their bondage."
- 3) **The Cup of Redemption**
"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."
- 4) **The Cup of Praise** – this cup was taken AFTER the meal
"I will take you as My people."



15. **Luke 22:18** Jesus makes another bold statement using the same wording He did back in verse 16. What does He say?

Underline "until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" and connect both statements in the text of your Bible.

16. **Luke 22:19** What does Jesus say about the bread and what we are to do?

Again, the Passover had been set up as an everlasting memorial to what great event? _____

And now, in this final Passover, who is Jesus telling His disciples to remember? _____

The Greek word for bread translated here is ἄρτον (arton). It is from the primitive root "ἄρτος" (artos) which in Greek begins with the Alpha (Α) and ends with the Omega (Ω) - "ΑΡΩ". Jesus is not only making a strong statement, but a symbolic one as well. He is breaking through time as it stretches from beginning to end (alpha and omega) and from the giving of the Law to the giving of His life, He is symbolizing His own breaking which will happen in mere hours (He is the

Alpha and the Omega) – not a literal breaking, since none of His bones were broken. He is pointing to the new covenant that He that very night established with His disciples.

17. **Luke 22:20** At what point in the Passover meal was this cup taken?

The Passover meal consisted of eating several prescribed elements – lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. You noted those back in question #5. Jewish tradition grew over time and other elements were added to the meal: a sweet mixture of fruit and nuts called “charoset” that reminded them of the sweetness of their deliverance and salt water to remind them of their tears and of the crossing of the sea.

18. **Matthew 26:20-25** records the Passover account and more specifically, Jesus’ answer to the statement: “Behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.” *At this point in the meal, all of the disciples would have had their hands on the table. So, they all begin questioning who it is. They would all have been taking and eating of the various elements of the Passover. Read Matthew’s account and write who Jesus says it is and what He says about the betrayal:*

19. Notice in **Matthew 26:22** how the disciples address Jesus, and how in **Matthew 26:25** how Judas addresses Him. What do you note in the differences?

Disciples address Him as _____ implying that He is what to them? _____

Judas addresses Him as _____ implying that He was what to him? _____

20. **Luke 22:20** Don’t miss Jesus’ astounding statement. What does He say about the covenant?

21. Who/what was the **old covenant’s** blood in? _____ (**Luke 22:7**)

22. The New Covenant begins at the pouring out of that cup of wine. The cup that Jesus says is the memorial of what being poured out? _____ (last two words of v. 20)

But the New Covenant wasn’t a new concept. Not at all. In fact, it had been predicted numerous times.

23. The prophets Moses, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all looked ahead to the time of this New Covenant.

Deuteronomy 29:4 – What is Moses looking forward to?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – What days are coming? When God will do what super awesome and exciting thing?? ☺

*This passage is also quoted in **Hebrews 8:8-12***

Ezekiel 36:26-28 – Ooooooh! So amazing! What will God give?

New _____ and a New _____

24. Paul confirms this all when he writes **2 Corinthians 5:17**. Write that verse here and why not go ahead and memorize it! It’s such an important verse! ...**New!** You are a new creation because of Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross!

25. **Luke 22:22** What is Jesus affirming here by His words? (Simply write the words from the verse.)

About Himself (the Son of Man) and what is about to happen: _____

“Son of Man” remember, is a messianic title from Daniel chapter 7.

About Judas and what he’s about to do: _____

*For further study, read the accounts in **Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; John 13:21-30***

Read Acts 2:23 – Peter is delivering a sermon only about two months after Jesus’ death and resurrection. What words does he use to make his point that echo what Jesus said in **Luke 22:22**?

26. **Luke 22:23** – What do the disciples do after Jesus’ statement about being betrayed by one of them?

“Satan works on the assumption that every person has a price. Often, unfortunately, he is right. Many people are willing to surrender themselves and their principles to whatever god will bring them the greatest short-term profit”

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*

What was Judas’ price? Thirty pieces of silver. Judas’ love of money left him open to Satan, left him leading others to Christ – not to follow him, but to send Him to His death, left him destitute when he later was overcome by the reality of what he had done. He ended his own life in utter despair. What about you? Do you have a price? Is there a limit set in your mind of what is the uppermost cost you’re willing to go for Jesus? Is there a point at which you’d be willing to sell out Jesus? Does it bother you to even consider the possibility? Be assured, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways according to the fruit of his deeds.”* (Jer. 17:9-10). What can keep us true followers of Christ then? What will set our hearts firmly with Jesus so that we would never be prone to leave the God we love? For starters, go back to the start. Go back to the core of all the commandments. What did Jesus say to the Rich Ruler who so sadly left without salvation? “Give all you have away, come, follow me.” What does this mean? Love God more than you love anything else. Period. And you may be reading this thinking, “Well, good. I’m so broke this won’t be a problem for me at all.” Really? Just because you don’t have money, doesn’t mean you’re not persuaded by it. Judas’ issue wasn’t that he was so rich – it was that he did not walk in true faith. He had walked all those miles with Jesus but he was never rooted and grounded in love. He did not “have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and didn’t know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. His mission was still his. It wasn’t the mission of Jesus: to proclaim the kingdom of God or to seek and save the lost. He had missed the heart of the Father. In spite of being literally face to face with the Savior of the world, seeing miracles, healings, even bringing Lazarus back from the dead, his heart was not with Him. Judas clung to his own mission, his own heart, his own will to the bitter – and it was bitter! – end. No one who has ever lived or ever will live will have the horrifying of Judas.

— Day Four —

Luke 22:24-38

... Open with Prayer ...

Review **Luke 22:24-38** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson.

Luke 22:24-30 – Who Is the Greatest?

25. **Review Luke 22:7** What Jewish holy day are Jesus and the disciples observing?
26. **Review Luke 22:21-23** What had the disciples just heard from Jesus and what were they discussing?
27. **Luke 22:24** Now what are they discussing – well, not actually *discussing*, right? What are they doing?

Does this seem like a huge 180° from their previous conversation? They've shifted from questioning who could be the one capable of betraying to arguing about who is the greatest! The word translated "dispute" is from the Greek "φιλονεικία" (philo-nay-kia) which means "love of strife." It shows a love and eagerness to strive over something.

28. What had Jesus told them in **Matthew 19:28**?

Maybe they were recalling this amazing prophecy and thinking about who would be?

29. Have the disciples disputed about this before? (Hint: Luke 9:46-48) What was Jesus' word to them at that "who shall be the greatest" dispute?
30. Jesus responds differently this time. In fact, His words give a hint about exactly what their dispute was about. What does Jesus say in **Luke 22:25** and what do you think this might reveal about exactly what kind of "regarding as great" the disciples were thinking about?
31. **Luke 22:26-27** Jesus redirects their dispute. The world (Gentiles) might do it this way...but I want you to be distinct. How? Also, Jesus says He is among them as one who what? _____
32. Read the beautiful account John records in **John 13:1-17**. Not only did He, as Luke records, teach them that they were to be the ones who serve, He showed them. What does Jesus do? (**John 12:14-17**)
33. Think of the greatest leaders you have known in your life. What character traits set them apart from other people in positions of leadership?
34. **Luke 22:28** Jesus draws a contrast between those seated with Him and who? (in general, and specifically)

How are followers of Christ to be different in the world?

The church is set up with leadership in the roles of pastors, elders, and deacons. Maybe you have been one or you have known an elder, pastor, or deacon. Do you think those in roles of leadership bear a higher responsibility to be servant-like in their ministry than those in the congregation? Why or why not?

35. **Luke 22:30** What will these eleven disciples (plus Matthias* who will replace Judas in Acts 1) be doing in Jesus' future kingdom? _____

**or perhaps the apostle Paul – scholars disagree on who the 12th apostle will be.*

36. Jesus is mere hours from His arrest, He's spelled out that His blood will be poured out for them, He's identified a betrayer among them, He's explained a difficult, troubling, future that is eminent...and now He is dealing with disciples who are disputing amongst themselves over who will be the greatest. What does it say about Jesus that He takes the time to redirect their thinking in verses 25-27 and then goes on to affirm that in the future they will "sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel?" And what does it say about the character growth coming for these disciples?

37. What can we learn from Jesus' example?

38. Often, we can learn from someone's example what NOT to do. What can we learn from the disciples' "example?"

Luke 22:31-34 – Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial

39. **Luke 22:31** What has Satan "demanded?" _____

The Greek word translated "demanded" is "ἐξήτησατο" (ex-ee-tee-sa-to) and it is only used one time in the entire New Testament. Right here. This is a strong word meant to convey that Simon be fully placed in Satan's hands. Yikes!! Not only that, but the word "you" is actually the Greek plural pronoun meaning "you all." In other words, Satan has asked that he may have all the disciples – Peter in particular.

40. Considering that the Greek is a plural "you" (from the note above), why do you think Jesus focuses on Simon? What has Simon done previously that might place him in the target so prominently of Satan? Hint: **Luke 5:8-10; Luke 9:20** – Also, you may be aware of Peter's role in the establishment of the church and the spreading of the Gospel after Jesus' ascension. (Acts 2:14-40; Acts 3:12-26; etc.)

41. What does this imply about the scope of Satan's influence that he could be allowed to make such a demand? What might this say to you about your own life and the temptations you face? **Read Job 1:6-12**

Making a demand is one thing. Getting your demand is another...

42. **Luke 22:32** Does Satan get permission to sift Peter? ____ Explain, based on what Jesus says in this verse:

43. **Luke 22:32** What does Jesus say that He **has done** already on Peter's behalf? _____

The word translated "prayed for you" is the Greek word "δέομαι" (deh-oh-mah-ee) and means "to beg, beseech, express a deep, personal need."

What exactly did He pray? (Note two things in particular.)

1) That your _____ and

2) _____ your brothers

But in between the beginning and ending of Jesus' prayer is what? "When you have _____ again."

The Greek word translated "turned again" is "ἐπιστρέφω" (eh-pee-stref-oh) which meaning "a dynamic change, an about face."

44. **Luke 22:33** Peter says he's willing to do what? _____ with whom? _____ Part of his statement does come about. What part does not, indicating he still didn't grasp what was about to happen to Jesus. _____

He is unintentionally prophetic here. Church history records that Peter died a martyr's death. He was to be crucified, but felt unworthy so he asked to be crucified upside down.

Read Acts 12:1-5 What happens to Peter and on what holy day? How is the church like Jesus? (Hint: Acts 12:5)

So, on the anniversary (ca. 45AD) of his statement about being "ready to go with you to prison," he does.

45. **Luke 22:34** What prophecy does Jesus make about Peter?

Note: The Greek word "ἀλέκτωρ" (a-lek-tor) translated "rooster" was translated "cock" in the King James. But, when the text is translated back into the original Hebrew (Matthew's gospel was written in Hebrew), according to some scholars, the word was not a bird, but a man, specifically the priest who was in charge of locking the Temple doors at night and then unlocking the doors each morning just before dawn. That priest would make the morning call to worship at the Temple, sort of a town crier. So, the "rooster" crowing is more of a euphemism for the Temple Crier. This would be in keeping with the Talmud teachings that chickens and roosters were not permitted in the Temple because of their uncleanness.

Luke 22:35-38 – Scripture Must Be Fulfilled in Jesus

46. **Read Luke 22:35-36** and **Luke 9:3, Luke 10:4, 17** How does Jesus' instructions differ from the first time He sent them out on their own to this time of instruction?

Did they lack anything? _____ How were their needs met? _____
Generally speaking, did they experience success in this previous mission? (Luke 10:17) _____ What example did they give? _____
Any indication of persecution in these first two missions? _____

But things are going to change and Jesus is preparing them for the shift.

47. **Luke 22:36** What two words does Jesus open these new instructions with? _____ _____. That was then, this is now. Things are going to be different, and I want you to be ready. How do His instructions differ from the first ones?

The Greek word translated "sword" is "μάχαιραν" (makh-ay-rahnn) which was a dagger. Not used offensively but defensively. It's the same word translated "sword" in Ephesians 6:17 "...the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."

48. **Luke 22:37** Jesus says what about Scripture?

- This is a reference to **Isaiah 53:12**. Isaiah 53 is quoted six times in the New Testament. It's one of the most important chapters in the Bible. And here, Jesus is again reminding them that Scripture will be – must be – fulfilled in Him. What was the Scripture that will be fulfilled? "And he was _____."
- Who are the "transgressors" with whom He'll be numbered? Think of any you are aware of:
- How many times does Jesus emphasize that Scripture must be fulfilled in Him in verse 37? _____ Underline them both.
- Look again at **Luke 22:22**. What did Jesus say about fulfillment in that verse? "The Son of Man goes _____." Nothing is happening here that is beyond Jesus. It is all according to Scripture – God's sovereign plan.

Isaiah 53 refers to Jesus taking our sin no less than twenty times. Jesus wasn't just numbered among specific transgressors (the thieves on the crosses next to Him, the "Tax Collectors and sinners" He associated with during His ministry), according to Isaiah 53, Jesus was considered the sinner on ALL our behalf. In other words, YOU are the transgressor, I am the transgressor that Jesus was counted among. This makes it all the more personal and powerful when we realize what Jesus was doing, and doing so willingly for us.

49. **Luke 22:38** What do the disciples find? _____ How many? _____ How many disciples were there with Him at this time? _____

- What does Jesus say in response to them finding the two swords? Write His exact words:

There's eleven disciples and only two swords? And that's enough? Not exactly. Jesus is using a play on words in a sense. He's being ironic when He says it's enough because He knows what they do not – they don't need actual swords at all. but that in only a few hours, Peter will strike a slave and slice off his ear with that sword, but Jesus will stop them from using force and will heal that slave on the spot. In addition, in the Greek, the phrase "It is enough" (ἰκανόν ἐστιν) two words: "That's enough!" – one word for each sword. God uses the same phrase in Deuteronomy 3:25 when He tells Moses, "Enough from you; do not speak of this matter again." In other words, the disciples had again, missed the point. Jesus' kingdom is not going to be protected by physical force. Swords won't be required. There is not going to be a violent overthrow. And besides, these are two small daggers. They're not even battle ready swords! Jesus has had enough and yes, those two swords will be sufficient. Why? Because you won't need swords at all.

...In Closing...

"Our battle is not against flesh and blood..." so wrote Paul in his letter to the church in Ephesus. At the close of our time today, the disciples still haven't grasped that. They have collected two daggers and are ready to strike! But Jesus, fully aware of what is to come, allows them take the swords. "It's enough." Why? Because it will be enough. It will be the perfect visual aid for them to see and realize that they won't need actual swords. There is a spiritual struggle in the heavenly places that is above and around and surrounds the spiritual struggle that goes on in our hearts, and there is an ancient enemy of power and evil who is beyond our comprehension and nothing, nothing that we can do against him can avail. Jesus will allow for it, but He'll also show His supremacy over it. Because there is one name above all names and above all powers who can defeat Satan. He has defeated him. Jesus. He is praying for you just like He prayed for Simon Peter. It's His help, His strength, His power, His Gospel, but that is all the help we need. The evil one who will seek to sift us like wheat, who will prowl like a crouching lion, seeks to devour us will not stand. Trust in Jesus and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight and even safe in the midst of danger.

*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in the Lord his God,
 who made heaven and earth,
 the sea, and all that is in them,
 who keeps faith forever;
 who executes justice for the oppressed,
 who gives food to the hungry.
 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the Lord loves the righteous.*

— Days Five and Six —

Luke 22:39-71

... Open with Prayer ...

Review **Luke 22:39-71** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson.

Luke 22:39-46 – Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

1. **Read Isaiah 53:3b** This is a messianic prophecy written 500 years before Jesus' birth. Write the words of this prophetic verse:

50. **Luke 22:39** and **Mark 14:32** Jesus and His disciples have left the Upper Room and are now where?
 _____ Locate it also on your map. Write a note there "Jesus Prays."
51. **Luke 22:40** What does Jesus tell them to do? _____
 - Why? _____
 - Where has He spoken about temptation and prayer before? (Hint: Luke 11:4) _____
 - Who does He bring with Him? **Mark 14:33** _____
 - What is Jesus aware of that is about to happen? _____

- And yet, who is He concerned for? _____ What does this teach you about the heart of Jesus?

52. **Luke 22:41** Three things to note, not to make Jesus' prayer a prescription for ours, but as a model to consider when we are under extreme pressure:

- Where is Jesus in relation to the disciples when He prays? _____
What might we learn from this?

- What posture does Jesus take in prayer? **Luke 22:42** and **Mark 14:35** _____
What might we learn from this?

Note: The common posture of prayer for Jewish people in Jesus' day was standing with your eyes lifted up to heaven and your arms outstretched. So, the fact the Luke makes a note of Jesus' posture is, well, noteworthy. Christians have been praying on their knees for two thousand years, so this won't seem odd to you, but it was definitely not customary in Jesus' day to pray in this manner. Mark notes that He wasn't just kneeling but that He fell down on the ground and prayed. Don't miss the extreme emotion expressed here. Don't miss the reality that Jesus had the weight of what was to come on His shoulders.

53. **Luke 22:42** These words of Jesus should sound familiar to you. Jesus had taught His disciples to pray with these words in **Matthew 6:10**. What similarity do you read in Jesus' words?

Have you heard the saying, "Those who can, do; those who can't teach?" It's a sarcastic way of mocking teachers who can't really do the thing they're telling their students to do. If you could do it – you'd be doing it. Jesus was the ultimate teacher. He taught it. He did it. He lived it. This is an excellent example and a reminder to us not to have our prayers be lofty and wordy but empty. Jesus' prayers are the true example of "prayer of a righteous person" having great power (James 5:16).

- Write Jesus' prayer from Luke 22:42

- What is this "cup" Jesus is referring to? (Hint: Mark 10:38-39)

- Does God answer prayer? _____ Considering Jesus' own request in this anguish-filled prayer, how might you respond to someone who says that they prayed and God didn't answer them?

54. **Luke 22:43** The angel appears immediately after Jesus says what? (v42) _____
Twice in Jesus' ministry an angel appears for Him. What is the purpose of this angelic visit?

- When did an angel visit Him before this time? (Hint: Matthew 4:11)

- What do both these angelic visits have in common?

55. **Read Mark 14:33-36** How does Jesus' posture (physically and emotionally) contrast with teachings of other religious orders that promote a denial of evil or suffering or pain? Is Jesus going calmly to the cross in some sort of Zen-like mode? Explain:

56. **Luke 22:44** What emotional condition is Jesus in?

- What does it cause to happen?
- What is He struggling with/against?

Luke is the only gospel writer who notes this happening to Jesus, and not surprisingly since he is a doctor by trade. Hematidrosis is medical condition where one's sweat will contain blood. The sweat glands are surrounded by tiny blood vessels. These vessels can constrict and then dilate to the point of rupture where the blood will then effuse into the sweat glands. Its cause—extreme anguish.

57. **Read Hebrews 12:3-4** What example can we take from Jesus' anguish in our own prayer life?

58. **Luke 22:45** – Luke wraps up Jesus' anguished prayer session simply: "He rose from prayer." Reading this, knowing all He has battled, how do you picture Jesus returning to the disciples?

- Spiritually - _____
 - Physically - _____
 - Emotionally - _____
 - After praying, how does Jesus find the disciples? _____
 - Not just sleeping, but why are they sleeping? _____
 - What sorrow do you think is on their minds that they'd rather just sleep it off than pray?
-
- Have you ever been overcome by sorrow that you could only sleep? If so, what was that like for you? Do you think you could have prayed instead? What about next time? If you are subject to a time when you're overcome with sorrow, do you think you'll be more likely to pray? Share your thoughts here:

59. **Luke 22:46** – Jesus tells them again to do what? _____.

- Why? _____
- **Read Luke 21:34-36** Note similarities in Jesus' admonition and what is happening in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Luke 22:47-53 – Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

60. Read over **Luke 22:47-53**, and make a list of who is there at this encounter:
For more details and names, read John 18:1-12.

61. While Jesus had been in the garden praying, while the disciples had been in the garden sleeping, what had Judas been doing? **John 13:30** _____ (Matthew 26:3-16 gives more details.)

62. **Luke 22:47** What is Jesus doing when Judas arrives on the scene? _____ ...still teaching, warning, encouraging, and then...

- What does Judas approach Jesus to do? _____ Add details about the encounter from:
- Matthew 26:48-49
- Mark 14:44-45

63. **Luke 22:48** What tone do you think Jesus has in asking this question?

- **Read Proverbs 27:6** What does this teach about friends versus enemies?

64. **Luke 22:49-50** Why would they have even asked this question?

- Do you think this would have played out differently had they obeyed Jesus in **Luke 22:40** and **46**? Explain.

- Before Jesus has time to respond, what happens? _____
Who does it? _____ Whose ear? _____ (Not sure? Read **John 18:10**)

65. **Luke 22:51** A moment ago, Peter couldn't fight off sleep, and now he can't stop himself from fighting? A moment ago the disciples weren't able to stay alert, and now they are alert in the wrong way. What can we learn from the disciples' rash response and Jesus' miraculous restoration?

- **Read Romans 12:12** and consider how this verse along with what we've just read about Peter's and Christ's actions can guide you today in your walk of faith. Write your thoughts here:

66. **Luke 22:52-53** Here we have another rhetorical question from Jesus and then a strong statement about just what is going on. How does Jesus describe this moment at the end of verse 53?

Underline "this is your hour, and the power of darkness" in your Bible.

===== This would be a good point to pause in the lesson if you are taking Day Five and Six in two separate sessions. =====

Luke 22:54-62 – Peter Denies Jesus

Luke's account condenses Peter's denials into one short account. However, they actually happened over a couple of hours. Reading the other gospels will give us the bigger picture.

67. **Luke 22:54** – Who's "they" _____
- Who's "the high priest?" (John 18:13-14) _____ We have met Annas before. Review Luke 3:2. Note several details of Annas' life and priesthood:

- Where are the disciples? Mark 14:50 _____
- Where is Peter? Luke 22:54 _____
- There...but not there. There's something to be said about at least following at a distance. Why do you think Peter had not fled and why was he at a distance and not closer to the scene?

- Who else is with Peter? John 18:15 _____
- Who might this other disciple be? Read Acts 4:6 for an idea: _____ We do not know for certain, however, it seems likely that it was the "disciple whom Jesus loved" and the author of this gospel: John.

68. **Luke 22:55-59** Three people accuse Peter of being with Jesus. List them, their accusation, and Peter's responses:

1) Luke 22:56f, Matt. 26:69f

2) Luke 22:58f, Matt. 26:71f

3) Luke 22:59f, Matt. 26:73f, John 18:26f

69. Peter calls down curses and swears. Cursing is the negative – I'll be damned if I knew Him. Swearing is the positive – pledging his oath of truthfulness. Out of the same mouth that identified Jesus as the messiah, comes these harsh lies, curses, denials, and betrayals. How could Peter have fallen so far? He had seen so much? What do you think is the root of the issue with Peter?

- Have you ever vehemently denied doing something you knew very well that you had done? Have you ever deliberately betrayed a loved one even though you knew it was a horrible thing to do? What was the root of your actions?
- Looking back now, what do you wish you had known or believed that could have changed the way you responded?

70. **Luke 22:60** Recall from Note 21 on Day Four that this was not necessarily an actual rooster, but a reference to what time of day and what occurrence? _____

71. **Luke 22:61-62** Write the first half of verse 61:

Underline the words "turned and looked at Peter"

- What had Jesus been going through while Peter was denying and cursing and swearing away any relation to Him? Read John 18:19-22. Describe what His appearance might have looked like when Peter saw him. Describe what Peter might have been feeling
- Compare the words of Jesus in John 18:20-21 with the actions/words of Peter while Jesus was being questioned. What do you notice?
- So, when Jesus looked at Peter...that look. Those eyes. All the love and prayer and understanding behind them...what do you think Peter saw and felt when he saw Jesus looking at him?

Luke 22:63-69 Jesus is Mocked and is Before the Council

72. **Luke 22:63-65** What are the soldiers mockingly demanding Jesus do? _____

- How does Jesus respond?
- What had Jesus predicted would happen in Luke 9:22? _____

73. Luke 22:66-68

- The opening of verse 66 gives you the time frame. What time is it roughly? _____ In Jewish law, it was illegal to assemble the court at night for a trial. So, they had to do this part in the daytime.
- What had they already done that actually did break their law? **Read Deuteronomy 16:19-20**
- What are their questions of Jesus? (v. 67 & 70) Underline the titles they use.
- What does His answer tell you about how well He knew their hearts? Consider other encounters we've read in Luke's gospel. (v. 67-68) (Hint: Luke 16:29-31)

74. **Luke 22:69** Jesus' answer in verses 68-69 are rooted in prophetic Scripture. What do each of these passages affirm?

- **Psalm 110:1**
- **Hebrews 1:3** and **Daniel 7:9, 13-14** (Jesus is the "Ancient of Days")

75. **Luke 22:70-71** The Jews were forbidden by Roman law to impose the death penalty. So, they had to find a political reason – a reason against Roman law – to drum up charges. For now, what religious reason in their view do they have here to condemn Jesus? **Read Leviticus 24:16** - (Note also the means of death permitted in Jewish law.)

- What is Jesus' response to their question "Are you the Son of God, then?" in verse 70?
- At His response, what does the Council proclaim? (v. 71) Paraphrase their words:

...In Closing...

Go back to question twelve and recall the different people who were there in the garden. Consider today, who you are in the scene? Are you a member of the crowd that had just days earlier shouted, "Hosanna!" are now rejecting Him – perhaps that's you? You don't want Jesus as your Lord and Savior, not really. You're there with your Hosannas on Sundays or even at Bible study, and yet, you're content to watch the action from the sidelines during the week. "Anonymous" is your name. Maybe you're like one of the Roman soldiers. Indifferent to the whole scene. You have the mind of a secularist. Bible studies are interesting for their historical value. But there's nothing of spiritual significance to capture your heart and your view of the eternal. "Secularist" is your name. Are you the betrayer? The fake? The one who kisses the Savior but hates Him in his heart. You have everyone fooled. You look like a true follower. You have "Christianity" as the role you play but you're angry, distant, feeling betrayed by Jesus. You're here to get what you can from Him and not actually to surrender to His will. "Fake" is your name. Or maybe today, you are one of the scattered disciples. You know you should be disciplined in your relationship with Jesus – praying, seeking Him, tuned to His will but you're weak, inconsistent, struggling and trials send you reeling as a result. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and imagine while you read these verses all the many truths the Jesus has taught His disciples. Picture the scene in the garden – Jesus is now bound and walking away. He has spoken the final words He'll utter before His trial. He has reminded everyone that there is a cosmic battle going on. The reality of that battle has not changed, sister. You may have read these verses before, but read them anew as you conclude today's lesson. As you read them, picture Jesus being taken away. Picture the disciples scattering at the sight. Recall His words just an hour earlier, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And consider how you might today consider how you could be more faithful to His words.

— Day Seven —

Read and take notes through Luke chapters 23-24

Today is an Active Reading Day

— Day Eight —

Luke 23:1-25

... Open with Prayer ...

Review **Luke 23:1-25** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson.

There is an interesting and irony in the trials of Jesus. The leaders of the day - Annas and Caiaphas, The Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod - all have their moment to pass judgment (or pass along judgment) as we'll see.

1. **Read John 3:17-19** - Do you see the irony? What do you see in these verses about Jesus and the leaders (noted above)?

The ones who thought they were judging Him will be judged by Him. Not just these big-name leaders and players in the religious and political scene, but the whole nation of Israel, and anyone who passes judgment on Jesus and ultimately rejects Him as their personal Savior. Reject or indifference is all the same.

2. **Read John 3:16** – What must one do to have eternal life?

Your decision about Jesus will matter and the weight of that decision will be of eternal significance. If you judge Jesus wrongly He will judge you rightly.

Luke 23:1-6 Jesus Before Pilate

3. **Luke 23:1-2** Who all comes before Pilate? _____

- The "whole company" refers to whom? (Luke 22:66)

What accusations do they make about Jesus? (v. 2) In the space beneath each accusation write why it is false. Use Scripture to support your answer.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

- Before bringing Him before Pilate, what titles had the Sanhedrin (Jewish "Supreme Court") used for Jesus? (22:67, 70)

- Now that they have brought Him before Pilate, what title do they use? (23:2) _____

- Why do you think they change it up for Pilate? Consider their objective and what they were prohibited by Roman law to do – Luke 4:28; 19:47; 20:19; 22:2.

4. **Luke 23:3-4** Summarize the parlay between Pilate and Jesus:

- Pilate's question: _____

- Jesus' response: _____

- Pilate's judgment: _____

5. **Luke 23:5** Why are the Jewish leaders unsatisfied with this answer? How do they respond to Pilate?

Luke 23:6-16 – Jesus Before Herod

6. **Luke 23:6-7** Why does Pilate send Jesus to Herod?

7. **Luke 23:8-9** What is Herod's initial interest in Jesus?

- Herod "had long desired to see Him..." Hmmmm, interesting. The last time Herod was mentioned it was in the context of what desire? Hint: Luke 13:31-33

8. **Luke 23:9** Jesus had answered Pilate, but how does He respond to Herod? Why do you think Jesus "responds" in this way?

9. What prophecy is fulfilled in this encounter? **Read Isaiah 53:7**

10. **Luke 23:10-11** How do the Jewish leaders and Herod respond to Jesus' silence?

11. **Consider Proverbs 26:4-5.** How do you see Jesus' responses to both Pilate and Herod in this paradoxical pair of proverbs?

12. **Luke 23:11-12** What is the "friendship" between Pilate and Herod founded on?

13. **Luke 23:13-16** and **Deuteronomy 19:15**

- Who has now rendered judgment on Jesus? _____ and _____

- What does this mean in light of Deuteronomy 19:5?

14. **John 18:39-40** and **Luke 23:17-18** What was the custom and who do they demand be released?

15. **Luke 23:19** and **Matthew 27:15-16**, **Mark 15:7**, **John 18:40** Use these references to write details about the man Barabbas:

Luke:

Matthew:

Mark:

John:

- Barabbas' name is from the Aramaic "bar" meaning "son", and "Abba" meaning father. So, his name means what?

16. **Luke 23:20** and **John 18:33-38** and **John 19:8** What do you make of Pilate's "desire" in Luke 23:20? What is motivating him? Politics? Religion? Truth?

17. What are the judgments upon Jesus to this point? Guilty or innocent?

- What was the verdict of the Jews? _____
- What was the verdict of the Gentiles?
Pilate? _____ How many times did Pilate protest his guilt? _____ (Luke 23:15, 22)
Herod? _____
- While the Gentile rulers may have declared Him innocent, what do their actions say? Are they culpable in His murder? Explain.

Their answers say innocent, but their actions in effect say guilty. Either way, they are culpable in His murder.

18. **Luke 23:23-25** What is the mob's response? And Pilate's?

76. Whose immediate will was done with this decision? _____

77. Whose ultimate will was done with this decision?

...According to: Luke 22:42 _____

...According to: Acts 2:23 _____

...According to: 2 Corinthians 5:21 _____

...In Closing...

There is something so vital to the Christian life, but I believe many of us have missed it. Honestly, I don't even like to think about it. It's a hard truth. In Acts 4:27 Luke records this account

*"Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?*

*The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed'*

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place."

Are you grasping what Luke is saying? Jesus is not on the cross because He's guilty. Everybody else is guilty — Herod's guilty, Pilate's guilty, the chief priests are guilty, the people are guilty — everybody else is guilty but Jesus is not guilty. What is He on the cross for? Because He fell into the hands as a victim of His enemies and was handed over to them by Pilate? No. He was there at because of the "hand and plan" of God almighty. What was God's hand orchestrating? Jesus' death. Who was God's hand moving? Judas. Sadducees. Pharisees. Herod. Pilate. Why? He was there to bear the punishment and the guilt that we deserve so that all who look to Him and trust in Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel are set free. We, like Barabbas, deserved the sentence of death, but if we look by faith to Christ, we are set free! Truly free. Barabbas whose name meant "son of the father" — the human son of an earthly father, was freed by the Son of God — the divine Son of the divine Father.

This is the heart of the Gospel. We must understand that Jesus on the cross is our substitute and that by His taking my place and your place we can be accepted by the Father. the human son of the father, or this man, the divine Son of the Father? You want the divine Son of the Father or the human son of the father?

You may wrestle with feeling accepted. The truth of the cross is that your acceptance has not been based on anything you have done or ever could do. It is based on Jesus. And so...never fear! Your acceptance is based on Jesus, not on something in you. This should be the ultimate in freedom: knowing that in your relating to /your heavenly Father your acceptance is not based on whether or not you mess up. You have a Savior that has already died for every sin that you've ever committed, are committing, or ever will commit and that you have been accepted. It makes all the difference. The Gospel is the greatest news ever in the history of the world, and yet because some of us have grown up hearing it all of our lives, we may lose the awe of it. We may be dull to how grateful we should be for it. There are others however, even going through this Bible study, who have just never had the message come home to our heart. As I am writing this I am praying for you, wherever you are in your understanding of God. That you would truly see God, truly grasp the greatness of His will, truly appreciate how powerful it is that Jesus went to the cross by the will of God for you.

— Days Nine and Ten —

Luke 23:26-56

... Open with Prayer ...

Lord, this is Your Word. I ask that You would open my eyes to behold wonderful things in it. I ask that, by Your Spirit, You would apply this Word to my heart so that I would understand the Gospel, so that I would understand the heart of the cross, that I would understand Your saving purposes, and that I would understand how to live and to die in hope, in trust, in faith in Christ. All these things I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

Review **Luke 23:26-56** and have your Active Reading notes handy as you complete today's lesson.

This is without a doubt the most emotionally difficult of all the passages in the Bible to read and study through. Perhaps you've seen movies depicting the beating and crucifixion of Jesus? You have imagery in your mind of what Jesus goes through. But, unlike reading about or watching movies that depict cruel beatings and tragic death scenes, Jesus' ordeal is more brutal to take in because we know the truth. Every blow He took, every lashing of the whip, every nail, every moment He suffered He suffered on my account. This is a very personal moment. It's ugly. It's horrific. But, it's His story because it's ours. We'll take two days to cover the next thirty verses.

Luke 23:26-43 - The Crucifixion

1. Yesterday's study left off with Pilate doing what? Review Luke 23:25
2. Jesus had predicted this moment from the beginning of His ministry. In Luke chapters 9, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19, He had laid out exactly what was to come. And now it has come. But where have the disciples to whom He predicted all this been and what have they been doing?
Peter? (Luke 22:62) _____
John? (John 18:15-16) _____
Judas? (Matthew 27:3-10) _____
The other disciples? (Matthew 26:56) _____

And so, on the road to His death, those that are mentioned are not His disciples, but the seemingly random people along the way...

3. **Luke 23:26** and **Mark 15:21** Note any details of this man's background (country, family, etc.) and what he does:
 - Roman law dictated that the criminal bear his own cross. Read **John 19:17**. What is Jesus doing?
 - Note that his name is of Jewish origin: "Simon" like "Simon Peter." He was from the country of Cyrene which is in modern-day Libya. Some traditions hold that Simon was a convert to Judaism who traveled from North Africa to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. Mark mentions that he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Rufus is mentioned in Romans 16:13 where Paul calls him "chosen in the Lord" and honors his wife (unnamed) as someone who Paul considered to have been like a mother to him. In Acts 6:9 we read about a synagogue called the "Synagogue of the Freedmen" where both Cyrenians and Alexandrians met. Both Cyrene and Alexandria are in North Africa, so, there were so many Jews in the north African region that they had their own synagogue in Jerusalem. Some of them had then left their countries and were living in Jerusalem and had their own meeting place. When they came from Cyrene for the feasts days they would be able to attend a synagogue together with others from their country and language. So, Simon has a fascinating story for us to hear one day, right?
4. **Luke 23:27-30** In his beaten and bruised state, unable to carry His cross, Jesus notices what?
 - What does He tell them? Summarize here:
 - What event is He alluding to? Luke 21:20-24

5. **Luke 23:31** This is proverbial warning by Jesus. There are several possible interpretations. Consider the context to help gain understanding:
- Jesus has just finished speaking what to these mourning women? (vs. 27-30)
 - He speaks of “they” doing “these things” – Considering what is going on, who are “they” and what are “these things” they are doing?
 - What kind of wood is green? What properties does it have? Who or what might the green wood refer to?
 - What kind of wood is dry? What properties does it have? Who or what might the dry wood refer to?
 - Jesus is saying what, then?

6. **Luke 23:32** and **Isaiah 53:12** What prophecy is fulfilled at this moment?

7. **Luke 23:33** Where is Jesus crucified? _____ **Matthew 27:33** calls it: _____

- What three words does Luke use to explain what happens on The Skull to Jesus? _____

All four of the gospel writers are brief (four words or fewer) in their description of the crucifixion. There was no need to dwell on the torment and agony. Crucifixion was the most heinous means of capital punishment. You can read a detailed medical account of death of Jesus at the end of this lesson.

8. **Luke 23:34** Write Jesus’ words:

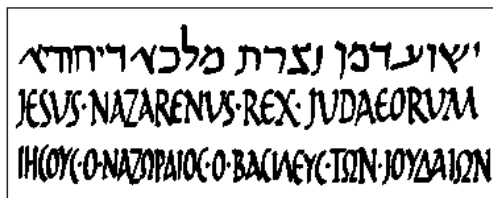
- Do you think those who crucified Jesus were aware of the implications of what they were doing? Explain:
- Do you think they deserved forgiveness? Hint: **Romans 5:8** Explain:
- What is Jesus’ prayer an example of? Hint: **Luke 6:32-35**

9. **Luke 23:34** and **Psalms 22:18** What messianic prophecy is fulfilled?

10. **Luke 23:35** and **Psalms 22:6-8** What messianic prophecy is fulfilled?

11. **Luke 23:36-37** and **Psalms 69:21** What was Jesus offered? What prophecy does this fulfill?

12. Note the inscription details in each gospel:
 Luke 23:38 –
 Matthew 27:37 –
 Mark 15:26 –
 John 19:19-22 – (extra details and a conversation)



13. **Luke 23:39-43** Hours from the end of their lives two criminals, two responses to the Messiah, two paths to take even at the very last moment possible...
- What tone does the first criminal take with Jesus? What do his words reveal about his heart? Consider his behavior with **Romans 3:18**
 - How does the second criminal respond? What does he appear to be very aware of?
 - Both criminals make requests, one sarcastic – one sincere. How do their requests differ and what response do they get (if any) to their requests?
 - How does Jesus respond? Write His words here:
 - Moments from death, what is the eternal destiny of these criminals?
The one mocking Him: _____ The one rebuking him: _____
 - Do you know the day or the hour of your death? Does anyone? Does knowing that you are going to die make a difference? Maybe. Maybe not. What do you think? Consider Psalm 90:11-12
 - If I'm in pain, the last thing I have energy to do is to hear the request of someone. What a powerful moment it was that Jesus, in the insane anguish of pain He was in, could hear and respond to those He encountered on the way to the cross and even on the cross. What does this tell you about the heart of Jesus? Select at least one statement Jesus has made throughout His ministry and write the verse here along with your answer:

Luke 23:44-49 - The Death of Jesus

14. **Luke 23:44** Jews in Jerusalem reckoned time with the “first hour” being at sunrise around 6am. What time was the “sixth hour?” _____
- What supernatural event happens from the sixth to the ninth hour?
 - How long does it last? _____
 - What does this darkness mean? Consider what the supernatural occurrence of darkness has meant throughout the entire Old Testament. Read any one or all of these: Deuteronomy 28:28-29, Isaiah 8:22, Joel 3:21 and sum up in one word what darkness is associated with: _____
 - But here, darkness is come, and the people are not being judged. Nothing is happening to them. Who is bearing the judgment? _____ God is doing what during these three hours? (Hint: Isaiah 53:6, 10-11)

William Hendrickson has these moving words to say about this: “The darkness meant judgment, the judgment of God upon our sin. The punishment though was borne by Jesus so that He, as our substitute, suffered most intense agony, indescribable woe, terrible isolation, and forsakenness. Hell came to Calvary that day. Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Savior bore its horrors in our place.” That’s what the darkness is about. The darkness fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament and so Jesus absorbs the just judgment of God against our sin on the cross.

15. **Luke 23:45** What happens “while the sun’s light failed?”
- **Read Hebrews 9:1-9** Where did people of the “first covenant” go to deal with sin? (v. 2) _____
The tent was later replaced with a permanent Temple. The smaller room in the Temple called the “Holy of Holies” was where priest went once a year to offer sacrifices for himself and the people. That room was separated from the rest of the Temple rooms by a curtain. The thickness of the curtain is not mentioned in the Bible however,

*Jewish tradition teaches that the veil was about **four inches thick**. Exodus 26:31-33 teaches that this thick veil was fashioned from blue, purple, and scarlet material and fine twisted linen.*

- **Read Hebrews 6:19** What does this opening of the temple mean for us?
- In tearing that curtain – the curtain that for 1500 years had separated God from the people, that had required a high priest to go behind in order to come before God - what has God done because of Jesus? This is so important, my friend! I hope you'll grasp the significance of this curtain being torn from top to bottom. Read **Hebrews 4:14-16** and **Romans 5:1-2** for help:

Jesus has opened our way back into fellowship with God. What did Adam and Eve lose in the garden when they rebelled against God? They lost the joy of His nearness. They lost the ability to talk with Him face to face. In Genesis 3 the Lord God came walking in the garden in the cool of the day, ready to experience fellowship with Adam and Eve but they had rebelled against Him and they hid themselves and they were eventually what — cast out of that garden and an angel was placed at the east of the garden to keep them from returning again. But Jesus has provided the way back into the nearer presence of God.

16. **Luke 23:46a** and **Psalms 31:5** Write Jesus' final words here:

- How precious. How perfect. How powerful. Jesus, who taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven..." calls out his final prayer to His Father, and because of this act – our Father as well. What does this tell you about the heart of Jesus when you read these words?
- From the moment He battled Satan in Luke 4, to this final moment of the battle, Jesus pours forth power by the words He chooses. Where does He get His words and what does this say to you about the heart of Jesus? What can we learn from His example?
- What had Jesus told His disciples about this moment? Consider what He has said (at least three times!) through our study in Luke and also consider: **John 10:18**
- "And having said this He... _____ (Luke 23:46b) Where was Jesus when He breathed His first breath? _____ (Luke 2:7)
- In Jesus' first breath He was laid in a manger because:
- Ironically, in His final breath, He had been nailed to a cross because:

From the inn to their hearts...no room for Jesus. And so, He breathed His last. For now.

17. **Luke 23:47-49** Summarize the responses of the onlookers that Luke mentions in these verses:

- The centurion:
The crowds:
- The acquaintances and women:

Luke 23:50-56 – Jesus is Buried

When we buried my father, it was one of the most emotionally difficult times in my life. All the prayers we had prayed for his healing, all the hopes we had for his dexterity to return, all the moments stolen by the disease...everything got buried that day. Everything ended. It was so final. It was so over. It was so sad from a purely earthly perspective. While I know that my father is whole and home with our Heavenly Father, it was nonetheless a sad, sad, day that brings me to tears even as I write these words. I can only imagine the trembling horror that those who tended His body must have experienced. To hold His cold, bruised hands. To lift His limp beaten body. To straighten His gnarled, bloodied legs. To embrace His thorn pierced head. Oh, the anguish and sorrow. The shudder of loss as they carried His body...the flashbacks to all the times He blessed and healed and laughed and prayed. The powerful word He had spoken so full of life and power and promise and hope...all gone? So terrible their grief. So abandoned and dejected. But burials must happen. Bodies must be prepared, shrouded, anointed, laid to rest...

18. **Luke 23:50-53, Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-46, John 19:38-42** Among all the members of the council who betrayed Jesus, there was at least two righteous men. What details do we learn about His burial in these accounts?

19. **Luke 23:54-56** Two Jewish special days are mentioned in verse 54:

The day of Preparation was the time before sunset on a Sabbath when all food had to be prepared and all work finished since, by God's law given in Deuteronomy no work was to be done on the Sabbath. The Sabbath began at sunset on the sixth day of the week (Friday by our calendar.) Since no work could be done, they had to prepare His body quickly.

- What does this tell you about Jesus' disciples, their commitment to the Law of Moses, and their understanding (or lack thereof) of Jesus' words at the final Passover meal just hours before when He said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

It's interesting to note the burial practice. One item is of particular interest. It is mentioned only three times in Jesus' life. Read **Matthew 2:11, Mark 15:23, and John 19:39.**

- What is mentioned in all three of these? _____
- What did God command Moses to use myrrh for in **Exodus 30:22-32**? _____
- What connection do you see between the presentation of myrrh at His birth and the use of myrrh at his death?

...In Closing...

Either you've been there or you know someone who has, but during many seasons in our lives, feeling confused and discouraged by the events going on in life is not the exception...it really seems more like the rule. You've heard the saying, "It's always darkest just before the dawn." Maybe a friend offered that phrase to cheer you up. And as sweet as that is, in real life the sun doesn't always feel like it's come up. Life is hard. Good people get very sick and leave us too soon. Unexpected losses rob our dreams. A prodigal child breaks our heart. A spouse breaks their vows. So many times we simply feel at a loss to wrap our minds around the difficulties around us. Where is God? Is there any hope?

Sister, as we've been reading through these events, my prayer has been that you would not just read the words from the Bible but enter into the moments with your heart. That you would think about the details and really feel what these disciples must have felt. It's been dark.

It's Friday. Where is the hope? It's gone. It's in a tomb. It's sealed up. Guarded by the enemy.

It's Friday...and hope has dwindled.

It's Friday, and it's darker than the darkest day and there doesn't seem to be any hope at all for any dawn that would matter. Even if the sun came up, it would still be dark. Hang in there with me and read on...You see, way back before our King of kings was born, the first great king of Israel, Jesus' great-great-great-great-grandfather David, shared his desperate broken heart in Psalm 13. It might just be the darkest, saddest, most desperate of all his psalms. He cries out:

How long, O Lord?

Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily?

How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

No matter where you are as a Christian in your faith journey, no matter how weak or strong you feel your spiritual maturity is, you can reach such a desperate place that you actually feel you've been completely abandoned by everyone —even God. Psalm 13 is exactly this feeling. Take a moment to read Psalm 13 journaling your thoughts and observations as you read. Sometimes we have to hit bottom, go through dark waters, or face devastation in our lives to really see Him even though He's been there all the time. We'll dig deeper into the Psalms later in our study. But I wanted you to give you a peek today. The Psalms are honest - often anguished cries of brokenness. Oh, there's plenty of happiness too, but the heights of the happiness are more real because of the depths of the anguish.

In the burial of Jesus, anointed with precious spices, aloes, myrrh lingered the fragrance of hope. The disciples may have lost hope...but hope was there. It was there. On the wind...the fragrance of hope. It was Friday — but Sunday was coming. Breathe in deeply today and know that you are loved by the God of Hope. Breathe in right this moment and pray that you will — even in the darkest times — remember that His love may seem hidden, but it is not gone. It may be Friday — but Sunday is coming!

— Day Eleven —

Luke 24:1-12

... Open with Prayer ...

Heavenly Father, I thank You for this Word. I know that I do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from Your mouth, and yet so often I don't live that way. For these few moments, help me to know that with an intensity that never ever ends. Open my eyes to behold wonderful things in Your Word. Amen.

It's been a heavy couple of days...are you ready to rejoice?

Read Luke 24:1-12 highlighting your Bible and taking notes in your journal as you read.

1. Aside from the obvious (Jesus is Alive!) what details did Luke include that were interesting to you?
WHO
WHAT
WHEN
WHERE
2. Read the following and note the prediction that Jesus had made in each:
 - Luke 9:21-22
 - Luke 9:43-45
 - Luke 18:31-34
3. What had the Jewish prophecies predicted?
 - Isaiah 53
 - Psalm 16:9-11
4. Pictures and prophecies of Jesus conquering Satan are throughout the Old Testament, literally from the first book.
Read Genesis 3:15
 - What prophecy to you read here? (Key words: snake, crush, head, heel)
 - In Psalms you can find several foreshadows, but no psalm is quoted more frequently in the New Testament than Psalm 22. A thousand years before Jesus, David painted a powerful image of the Promised Savior (Messiah) hanging on the cross and even more details. What do these verse point to?
 - Psalm 22:1 _____
 - Psalm 22:7-8 _____
 - Psalm 22:14 _____
 - Psalm 22:16 _____
 - Psalm 22:18 _____
 - What does Psalm 22:31 say about God's righteousness?

Psalm 16 is quoted by Peter in Acts chapter two when he's addressing the crowd in Jerusalem only a few weeks after Jesus was resurrected. Paul also quotes from Psalm 16 in Acts 13:32-35 when he's reviewing Old Testament scripture with Jews and Gentiles reminding them that, "What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us...by raising up Jesus."

5. What did Paul say in Acts 13 that God had promised?

Jesus and the prophets before Him had predicted his death AND resurrection many times. A helpful search on www.BibleGateway.com is to look up "resurrection" and read all the verses that mention it. Then highlight these in your study Bible in a color that will help you see them in the future. Also, your study notes from your Bible will point back to the Old Testament on many of these verses in the New Testament so you can connect the prophecies and their fulfillments.

6. **Read Luke 24:4-10**

- What do the two "men" (John describes them as "angels in white" John 20:12) remind the women (Matthew 28:1-8) of?
- Who are the women reporting this? (v. 10)

7. **Read Luke 24:11-12** Describe the response of the "Eleven" and Peter:

8. Go back and Re-read Luke 24:7 Underline and maybe even write a little number by the three key things (the verbs) that the "Son of Man" (Jesus) had to do:

- D _____
- C _____
- R _____

9. If someone were to ask you why you believe in God or how you know He lives, would you be able to answer with confidence the reason you have this hope? Read **1 Peter 3:15** and write it here:

10. Be ready and prepared to give an answer...Do you feel ready? Now go back and read the verses that came before verse 15. **Read 1 Peter 3:8-14**...Why would people even ask you about the hope you have?

11. Go back and underline verse 14. Actually, double underline it! "...even if you should suffer..."

It's not pleasant to think about is it? But we're going to stand out in this world because our behavior is different WHEN – not if – we are persecuted. We're going to get asked questions about how we're living because we're doing life God's way, not the world's. I submit to you, my sister, that if you're not getting questions about your faith, you're doing it wrong. Our lives as believers should be noticeably different than the lives of those around us. So different that people will be drawn to us and wonder what is going on. THAT'S when we're ready to give an answer.

12. **Read Psalm 34:12-16** You want to love life and see good days? According to this Psalm, quoted by Peter in chapter 3, what must you do? Write at least six behaviors you'll need to exhibit in your life:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

As Jesus began to prepare his disciples for his death and resurrection, He gave some stern warnings about what was to come and what life would be like. We looooooove the Bible verses that say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me..." or "...be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." We like these verses so much that we're even willing to hear them quoted completely out of context. But how empty is our hope, how trite and fluffy, how "pitied above all" if we cherry pick these phrases and ignore the truth.

13. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-33** List some of the ways Paul was persecuted:

14. **Read Philippians 4:10-14.** Why can Paul say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?" (Don't forget what you just read in 2 Corinthians):

Our hope is sure, not because of our wishful thinking but because we serve a God - even get persecuted for Him – who makes good on His word. He said Jesus would be crucified, die, and be raised...and check-check-check. He did all three. If you would like to dig even deeper into the sureness of our hope in Christ and the proofs of his resurrection, I encourage you to get one or more of the following books:

- ✓ "The Case for the Resurrection" by Lee Strobel
- ✓ "Evidence that Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell
- ✓ "More Than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell

If you would like a free copy of "More Than a Carpenter", please email me at Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com, and I will gladly send it to you. These are just three among hundreds of great books written to defend the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. You do not need to know every fact and detail and be able to debate a skeptic, but learning more will be of great benefit to you.

15. In 1 Peter we read to "always be ready to give an answer", and this is true. However, read also **Luke 21:5-19** when Jesus was preparing his disciples for the persecution to come. What does he say in verse 14 NOT to worry about?
16. If you feel concerned that you wouldn't know exactly how to answer someone who challenged your faith by denying the resurrection, I want to encourage you that the you can ask for wisdom! Jesus will give you what you need. **Read James 1:5** and write it here:
17. What's on your heart today, my friend? Reading through the prophecies fulfilled, hearing what God says about righteousness, how does this bring you hope? Write your thoughts here.

...In Closing...

Think about it: The vast majority of messages we are hearing or reading or watching on TV from motivational people tell us to think positively, keep on hoping, even to trust "God." Great concepts on the surface, but what is the core? Why can we think positively? Why can we hope? In whom really are we hoping?

My friend has lived in Los Angeles for 60 years. She remembers when the LA Colosseum was built. She remembers the iconic Sixth Street Bridge which has connected the valley with Downtown Los Angeles since the 1930's. You've seen the bridge in movies and TV shows like "Terminator", "Grease", "Lost", "Columbo", and "The Great Race." As strong and stable as the bridge appeared over the years, inside that bridge a rare chemical reaction was happening causing the structure to begin to crumble from the inside out! It looked fine, but, on the inside it was quite literally becoming a death trap. When the day came to demolish the bridge, Angelinos were invited to come out and take a stone home, but guess what? Hardly a stone was available. The insides were so decrepit that most could only take home handfuls of dust.

This is what happens when we hold on to worldly hopes or even "Christianish" hope quotes that reduce the Bible to inspirational literature or a self-help book. We are stepping out on a bridge of faith and hoping in something that only looks stable but is empty on the inside. Worse: it's a death trap if we've missed the target of our hope. My prayer in preparing this study has been that we'd think bigger and deeper and wider about God and what having hope in God actually means; that by digging into the Word we'd understand the truth upon which our hope is founded. This might challenge your views. It may bolster them. Either way, don't you want a completely true faith built on real hope? I know I do!

We have to circle back here. No matter how often, we must circle back and keep this truth at the foundation of everything. Read how the author of Hebrews puts it:

Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. (Hebrews 6:18b-20 NLT)

Jesus has already gone into God's inner sanctuary for us. He died and rose again! He is our High Priest! That's what our hope is founded upon! It's not wishful thinking – although we might feel like it. It's confident thinking. Edward Mote penned this hymn, and I think it sums it up so well...

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
Jesus really did rise from the dead! Our hope is sure!

— Day Twelve and Thirteen —

Luke 24:13-53

... Open with Prayer ...

1. **Luke 24:13** What day is this? _____ (go back to Luke 24:1 if you're not sure)
| - Who's walking and where are they going? _____ to _____
2. Luke 24:14 What do you think these two were talking about? The weather? The latest sandal styles? Ha! Write a few thoughts down here about what and WHO you think they were discussing... you feel the anticipation here?

Jesus HIMSELF joins these two! When I was a child, I remember my grandmother chiding me when I was being unkind to my sister, "Would you talk like that if Jesus was standing right there?" What? No way! Yikes! I didn't want Jesus to pop in and stand there hearing the mean things I was saying. No way. But what if Jesus did walk in right in the middle of when you were talking or shopping or at your child's ball game or . . . ? These two disciples get to actually experience this!! Wow! Wow! Wow!

Here they are in the throes of the drama and their animated discussion and none but the Firstborn of All Creation, the Bright and Morning Star, the High Priest, the Mediator between God and Man...shows up and asks, "Hey, what's up?"

Do you feel the sweetness here? Even the humor? Ok, maybe not in those exact words...but c'mon...you gotta love the timing of the Lord Most High here and admire his humor a bit, right? I mean, of all the entrances He could have made - lights flashing, a big poof of smoke a la Houdini, an accompaniment of angels announcing his return, borrowing Elijah's flaming chariot and swooping down on that...but nope.

He just slips right up on the path and joins them.

3. **Read Luke 24:16** But, what's this? Read on "...they were kept from recognizing Him?" Why? Why on earth would this be necessary? Is this something God does? Does He keep people from seeing or recognizing? The Greek word here for "kept from recognizing" literally means that their eyes were "held." Jesus was holding their eyes and keeping them from perceiving who he was! Why? What reason do you think Jesus was doing this? Write your thoughts here:

4. **Exodus 7:1-5** What did God keep from happening and allow to happen here?

5. **Numbers 22:21-31** What did God keep from happening and allow to happen here?

6. **Acts 9:1-7** What did God keep from happening and allow to happen here?

7. Can God keep people from...
| - Having soft hearts? _____ (yes/no)
| - Having opened eyes? _____ (yes/no)
| - Recognizing Him? _____ (yes/no)

Why? Doesn't God want us all to know Him? Yes.

But, sister, In. His. Time.

In His Way.

For His Glory.

8. **Isaiah 55:8-11** What does this say about God's timing and His methods?

9. Are you willing trust that God’s “thoughts are not your thoughts,” and that this is a good thing? Are you willing to see that this truth brings comfort and hope? When, like the disciples talking on the Road to Emmaus, you are not yet seeing the big picture, are you ready to acknowledge God’s sovereignty and timing? Take a moment to write out your thoughts about this and give this to God in prayer:

10. **Luke 24:17** What does Jesus ask?

I love that God likes to hear right from us what we’re thinking about.

11. Think about a trying time you’ve had recently and imagine Jesus coming alongside you and asking you as you were wrestling with your thoughts or sharing them with a friend. If He had asked you the same question, what would you have said?

12. **Read Genesis 3:8-11** What question does God ask Adam and Eve?

God knows the answer before He asks the question. But, like a parent who already knows the answer to, “Anything interesting happen at school today, son?” having already received a call from the principal, God wants to hear from us personally. Think about what that says about His character. He wants true relationship with us. Jesus, at this moment could have walked upon the disciples and said any number of things, but by simply walking alongside and asking to hear from them He accomplished many things...two in particular stood out to me. Read the two observations I made, and be thinking about what YOU think this says about God’s character:

First of all, I see that He gave them the chance to share their own heart out loud. There’s something about hearing your own heart out loud that is so helpful. When I was writing this study my husband graciously listened while I read and re-read each section to him not only for his feedback, but for the help that reading aloud provides. By hearing my own heart out loud it helped me tighten up my thoughts and clarify my points and find silly errors. Surely Jesus knew their hearts (Jer. 17:10; Matt 12:25; John 2:25), but what clarity they provided when they spoke the truths about Him.

13. **Read Luke 24:19-24** and write down the facts they cited about who they believed “Jesus of Nazareth” to be and what they witnessed happen to him:

14. Review your list and think about the ways they referred to Jesus. They called Him “prophet” which He surely was, but what could they have called Him? Check below:

___ Friend ___ Rabbi (teacher) ___ Leader
___ Messiah ___ Healer ___ ? _____

15. They had enough respect to refer to Him as a “prophet”, but why not call Him as He was...as He claimed to be? Read Matthew 16:13-20 and John 4:25-26 Who did Jesus affirm that He was? (Hint: it’s not a trick question)

___ Friend ___ Rabbi (teacher) ___ Leader
___ Messiah ___ Healer ___ ? _____

There are hundreds of questions you might have to answer in a given week and innumerable questions you'll likely have answered by the time your life is over. Some pretty frivolous, some pretty serious.

Let's rate a few. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being highest priority/consequence and 1 being nearly inconsequential, how would you rate the following - I even left a couple blanks for you to write in!

- _____ "What's your favorite ice cream flavor?" ~ the ice cream shop kid
 - _____ "Plastic or Paper?" ~the grocery store gal
 - _____ "What's your major?" ~a friend in college
 - _____ "In-N-Out or McDonald's?" ~a hungry friend who has the audacity to even propose the question! ;-)
 - _____ "Will you marry me?" ~your sweetheart
 - _____ "Who do you say that I am?" ~Jesus
-
-

In this pluralistic and "tolerant" society where statements like: "Hey, don't judge me!" and "My truth is as good as your truth." and bumper stickers like: "COEXIST" define the worldview of the vast majority, it is not a popular concept to teach that there is one way...One True Way. It takes strength of conviction to assert this and acknowledge that Jesus was THE Promised One...THE Solution...The Way, the Truth and The Life - but we must, if we're honest, not only answer the question Jesus Himself asked, but be willing to live our lives in way that matches what we claim to believe.

At this point, they had just heard that He had resurrected...or did He? Were the women right? Could it be? I believe these two disciples were not quite ready to finish the equation. That's why they recounted all those details and left His title at "prophet." Oh, they could add up all the prophecies, they could count up all their eye witness accounts, but they weren't ready to complete that equation with a bold equals sign. Are you?

Everything we've read + everything we've witness + everything we've heard = _____

My second observation...

He modeled what was soon to come - their new relationship with the Holy Spirit!

16. **Read John 14:16** Who did Jesus say was coming? _____
This "helper" is the Holy Spirit. The word for Holy Spirit in Greek is: "paraclete" which means, comforter, advocate, helper, but also, "one who comes alongside." What? So exciting! Jesus was here! Walking alongside His disciples...hearing their hearts...letting them speak their minds...and in a few moments, He would confront their "slow hearts" and open their eyes. This is precisely what the Holy Spirit does!
17. What else do you see that Jesus was doing by asking a question instead of announcing His presence?
18. Read Luke 24:25 What does Jesus say?
19. He asks a question – a good, pointed, rhetorical question...read **Luke 24:26** and write that down here:
20. What's the answer to this rhetorical question from verse 26? _____
21. **Read Luke 24:28-29** Highlight in your Bible and/or journal key verses to you.
By this point, they had been walking for quite some time. The road to Emmaus was about seven miles (Luke 24:13). At a normal walking pace across this unpaved road it would be about a three-hour jaunt. Three hours discussing with Jesus! Three hours relating their experiences! Three hours! Wow! What a walk that must have been, and sure enough, when they get to a point where Jesus seems to be leaving them, they just cannot get enough of Him...
22. What is Jesus doing? What do they ask?
23. Jesus joins the two and does what with them?

Just to clarify: In your Bible translations it says "bread" in verse 30 and you're thinking of a loaf perhaps like a baguette or shepherders bread? But this was still during the Passover Holy Days, so they would not have been eating any bread made with yeast because the laws they followed forbid the use of yeast during these holy days. For more details on the Passover, read Exodus chapter 12. So, when you picture Jesus breaking the bread and passing it to them as it describes in verse 30, imagine a crisp matzah cracker, not a fluffy loaf of bread.

24. **Luke 24:30** What does Jesus do at the table? Four specific things...

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

25. **Luke 24:31** What happens? _____

Was it at the sound of the matzah cracking? Was it the sight of Jesus breaking the bread? Was it a glint in Jesus' beautiful eyes? In the Greek, the word for used here is ἐπιδίδωμι (epididomi), which means that while He was in the act of distributing they recognized Him. He blessed, and having broken, was giving it to them, when, in an instant, their eyes were opened!

26. **Luke 24:32** According to this verse, what was happening in their hearts?

- When was it happening? _____

This isn't the first time – and surely not the last – when Scripture being recounted brought about a powerful response!

27. **Read Nehemiah 8:8-12** – What happened when the people heard God's Words?

28. **Read Isaiah 55:10-12** – What power does God's Word have?

29. **Read Jeremiah 15:16** – How did Jeremiah feel about God's Words?

30. **Romans 10:14-17** – How do we get faith?

Take a moment to thank God for the power of His word and the fact that He gave it to us!

31. **Read Luke 24:33-35** Write three words or phrases that stand out to you in these verses. Or, if you love to draw, sketch the scene here...

Urgency!

There's power in a sense of urgency. Important things can wait. Urgent things cannot. When it's urgent you stop what you're doing, redirect your thoughts, your plans, your mindset... and just go and do.

It's. That. Urgent.

..... Do you feel the sense of urgency here in verse 33?

The crumbs from Jesus' freshly broken bread had barely fluttered down to the table...whoosh! Jesus has vanished and these two who had spent the better part of the day in deep, contemplative discussion, as they walked the path from Jerusalem to Emmaus now leave nothing to discussion...they. Are. Gone. G'bye! Out the door. This is too urgent to wait. No need to discuss, confer, review...we're outta here! Back to Jerusalem!

Back to the Eleven (actually probably just Ten since Thomas wasn't there).

And this time? No contemplative walking pace. I imagine these two bolting as quickly as the Prodigal Son's father ran down the road to greet his wayward son! Wayward sons these two may well have been had they not encountered the Risen Lord. But they surely did more than encounter Him. They had a faith-solidifying experience that altered their lives from that point forward.

Back to Jerusalem. Back to the grieving bewildered disciples. Back past the point where Jesus first joined them. Back past the spot where they had departed Jerusalem...Back to the lamp-lit room where the dejected disciples and several others had gathered, bursting through the door, they shouted,

32. **Luke 24:34** Write their exuberant words here:

33. After they announce, "It's true!" What do they say next? Write the next two details here:

1) _____

2) _____

SIDE NOTE: He appeared to Peter? Where earlier in the Luke account does it say this? (It doesn't.) When could this have happened?

34. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:5**

Jesus appeared to _____ and then to _____

Are you seeing the value in reading ALL of Scripture? When you read full books, you'll connect the full picture and see details that bring it all together.

I want you to grasp the hope affirming sweetness of this moment. Jesus could have appeared to the leaders of the day, the rulers, and kings, the famous and powerful – and any smart writer would surely spin the account to include these types of people. But "His ways are not our ways!" – not by a longshot! The resurrected Jesus appeared first to a woman who had been demon possessed and next to a loud-mouthed, rash man who had been the first to deny him and deny him loudly and publicly – Peter. Next, He appears to two disciples heading out of town whose earthly significance only matters enough to have one of them even named, Cleopas. Jesus' final days on earth echoed his pattern of His earthly ministry, that He came "to seek and save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10 NLT) Have you felt out of hope because surely, you're not important enough for God to notice or care to be with you? Perhaps you've prayed with a friend who is struggling with her sense of value. She feels unworthy – too damaged – too insignificant Here in these few short verses, this amazing account is your reminder to yourself and to that friend that you matter and there is hope.

Luke 24:36-49 Jesus Appears to his Disciples

35. **Luke 24:36-37** What does Jesus say and what is ironic about their response (considering what He had just said.)

36. **Luke 24:38-43** Why are they afraid and what does Jesus do to help them?

37. **Luke 24:44-47** What does Jesus remind them? And what does He do for them in verse 45?

If ever there was a reason to commit to reading, studying, understanding, and loving the Old Testament, I pray that the words of Jesus here will cement it in your mind and heart right this very moment!

38. **Luke 24:48** Jesus tells them that they are what? _____

39. **Luke 24:49** What is He sending them? Write His exact words and write what you understand, based on Scripture, this to mean:

- What does He tell them to do first and why? Write his exact words and write what you understand, based on Scripture, this to mean:

Luke 24:50- 53 The Ascension

40. **Luke 24:50-51** Find Bethany on your map. What else has happened there? Why had this place been significant?

- Upon arriving there what does Jesus do?

Imagine the blessing He spoke! What glorious words that must have stayed with them for ever and ever!

41. Matthew records Jesus words. Read **Matthew 28:18-20** and write them here:

42. Mark also includes Jesus' closing words. Read **Mark 1:15-18** and summarize His words:

43. **Luke 24:52-53** What were the disciples doing afterward and where?

...In Closing...

The very last thing His disciples see Jesus doing to them is blessing them. It is the last sight they have of Jesus — it is of Him blessing them. With all their bumbling and all their stumbling and all their unbelief and all their trials and tribulations, the last thing they see is Him blessing them. It's a picture of the divine Son accomplishing precisely the Father's purposes in the redemption that He has brought and it is something that we will see again, because when He comes again He will come again to bless His people. What do we sing at Christmas time? "He comes to make His blessing flow far as the curse is found." And here, as Jesus ascends into heaven, the last thing they see is Him blessing them. There is joy and hope and blessing in this passage for all who believe. That hope is there for you today. Wherever you are in your walk. Whatever has been in your past...you surely can know for certain that you have hope in the Lord.

You are loved
AND
prayed for.

There are over 300 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus in His life. At least 100 of those prophecies were fulfilled in the last week of His life. As you complete this study, keep a record of the prophecies you find and where they were fulfilled in Jesus. I've done the first one for you. Also, make a note of these in your Bible. (Note-taking tip: I mark prophecies in orange.)

	Prophecy Given	Prophecy Fulfilled
SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER	<i>Zechariah 11:12</i>	<i>Matthew 26:14-15</i>
NEW COVENANT IN JESUS' BLOOD		
BETRAYED BY A FRIEND		
THE MONEY CAST TO THE POTTER		
THE DISCIPLES ABANDON HIM		
ACCUSED BY FALSE WITNESSES		
BEATEN AND SPIT UPON		
SILENT BEFORE HIS ACCUSERS		
WOUNDED AND BRUISED		
FELL UNDER THE CROSS		
HANDS AND FEET PIERCED		
CRUCIFIED WITH THIEVES		
PRAYED FOR HIS PERSECUTORS		
PEOPLE SHOOK THEIR HEADS		
PEOPLE RIDICULED HIM		
PEOPLE ASTONISHED		
GARMENTS DIVIDED AND LOTS CAST		
HIS FORSAKEN CRY		
VINEGAR GIVEN HIM		
COMMITTED HIMSELF TO GOD		
FRIENDS STOOD AFAR OFF		
BONES NOT BROKEN		
HEART BROKEN		
HIS SIDE PIERCED		
DARKNESS OVER THE LAND		
BURIED IN A RICH MAN'S TOMB		

A Medical Account of the Crucifixion



Hanging, electrocution, knee-capping, gas chamber: these punishments are feared. They all happen today, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But as we shall see, these ordeals pale into insignificance compare with the bitter fate of Jesus Christ.

Few persons are crucified today (except by ISIS and various other terrorists). For us the cross remains confined to ornaments and jewelry, stained-glass windows, romanticized pictures and statues portraying a serene death. Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to a precise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was

a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

Sweat like blood

Luke 22:24 says of Jesus, "and being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."³ The sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him. (Note: the scriptures nowhere say that Jesus was sweating blood.)

Beating

It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse: punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possibly injured. The psychological effects of the false trials should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, exhausted, possibly in shock.

Flogging

In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result.

A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used – the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death: several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep's bone were sometimes included.

As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, than deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep's bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding.

The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe: he was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

The mocking

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Made to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. "Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff." The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds on Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again.

Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

The crucifixion

The wooden cross used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached crossbar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of

execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here.) Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing around 75 to 125 pounds (approximately 35-55 kg). He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. (It would have dulled the pain.) Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the crossbar, nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the wood. These iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3/8 inch thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the full weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the crossbar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs bent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head, the weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect: It is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began: hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post,⁴ as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe. Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

Cause of death

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by his sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours: a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia, or perhaps cardiac rupture, are likely candidates.

The spear wound

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice.

From the wound came a flow of "blood and water." This is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

From <https://www.douglasjacoby.com/a-more-accurate-medical-account-of-the-crucifixion/>