

Luke 22:24-46

**Verses 24-30: Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**

**“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”**

--(24) Jesus had given His disciples similar lessons (**Mt. 18:1-5; Mk. 9:34-37; Lk. 9:46-48**).

--Many commentators call this a rebuke, but I disagree. Jesus does not reprove their desire to be great in the kingdom of God. He corrects, directs, informs, and encourages it!

--I also do not find the discussion as misplaced as many imagine it. Jesus had just referenced His coming kingdom twice (**16+18**) and had disclosed the presence of a traitor, which no doubt influenced the discussion—maybe the faithfulness of some was being questioned or compared?

--(25) Jesus explains how the world exercises greatness—through lordship and the reception of service.

--(26) Jesus explains that greatness in His kingdom is measured differently. In fact, it would be **contrary** to that of the world. His followers were to express greatness through meekness (**as the younger**) and responsibility toward others (**as he who serves**). \*Relating to others *to give* or *to get*?\*

--(27) Jesus again summarizes the world’s ideal, but then puts Himself forward as their ideal. Jesus didn’t come to be served, but to serve. Jesus didn’t come to receive, but to give. He didn’t just *serve*—Jesus *is a servant*. He is, in fact, The Servant!

--(28) **But. . .** Jesus takes nothing away from their service to Him, seen most directly in simply sticking with Him through His era of humiliation and rejection. This was truly the best thing that could be said about those eleven, and remains the best thing that could be said about any of us! Don’t we want Him to be able to say the same for us?

--(29-30) Clearly, there is no possible way the disciples would have understood Jesus’ promise here as anything but literal (**Acts 1:6-7**). \*It is recorded that Herod Agrippa was imprisoned for six months for supporting Caligula’s bid to be emperor. When Caligula came to power, he bestowed on Herod a kingdom and gave him a chain of gold as heavy as the iron chain with which he was bound in prison. Can we imagine our King doing less than these wicked rulers?\*

--**I bestow. . .** is a strong phrase in the Greek and means to appoint by covenant. The same word is used to describe the new covenant God made with us in **Heb. 8:10; 9:16-17; 10:16**.

--What does this remarkable promise tell us about the kingdom of God?

1) We will literally eat and drink at tables in His kingdom. \*A resurrected Jesus ate bread, honey, fish, etc.\*

2) We will literally fellowship with those whom we knew in this life. \*Their connection to Jesus from this life carries into the next.\*

3) We will literally have things to do in terms of service. \*We are not just standing around singing. Kings and judges tend to be busy folks!\*

4) We will literally retain a certain level of national and cultural ties. \*The twelve tribes of Israel are still the twelve tribes of Israel.\*

--This was no haphazard, misunderstood, or spiritualized promise. Jesus promised this more than once: ***So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Mt. 19:28)."***

***Verses 31-34: And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."***

***But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and death."***

***Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."***

--(31) Luke brings us to a point where Jesus is on His way to Gethsemane with the disciples (**Mt. 26:30-31**).

--Jesus addresses Peter first with a double use of his name, reflecting deep concern as with Martha (**Lk. 10:41**) or Saul (**Acts 9:4**).

--The first **you** after Simon is a plural—meaning *you all*—therefore including the rest of the disciples. Satan wanted to sift them all. What is Jesus doing here? Why say this?

--Jesus knows Satan is present. He has won Judas, was coming for Jesus (**Jn. 14:30: *the ruler of this world is coming. . .***) and wanted to sift all the disciples—especially Peter! All through this section, we see Jesus warning everyone around Him (disciples and enemies!), all the while heading directly and knowingly into the fray Himself.

--Jesus lets them know Satan has desires for them. He wants to sift them to get rid of the wheat, not the chaff.

--Jesus is letting them (and us) know that we are at the center of a conflict between heaven and hell! \*Wake up, sleeper! Heaven and hell are on the line, and men are sleepy about the supernatural forces who deeply desire their salvation or doom!\*

--(32) The **you** in this verse becomes singular again—Jesus is referring back to Peter.

--Jesus assures Peter of His personal intercession. What a wonderful truth! \*This was true for all the other disciples, and all future disciples as well (**Jn. 17:6-26**).\*

--The Scriptures are clear that Jesus is still interceding on our behalf!

**\*Romans 8:34: *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.\****

**\*Hebrews 7:25: *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.\****

**\*1 John 2:1: *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.\****

--Jesus prayed that Peter's faith wouldn't fail. It didn't. His courage did, but his faith did not. What other answer, other than the intercession of Christ, can one give for the continued presence of grace in Peter's heart? What of ours? The continual, abiding presence of grace and life in our inner man is a divine miracle best attributed to the intercession of Jesus Christ.

--Jesus knew of Peter's denial and return. His command to him is: ***when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.***

--I think it became so important for Peter to know that *Jesus knew* he was going to deny Him and still chose him, loved him, prayed for him, and expected him to return and serve Him by serving others. **\*This is so good for those who sin grievously *after* salvation to see!\***

--Living faith always returns to Jesus. Peter had a spiritual reconversion—what we would call a rededication of his life to Christ. Also, it is important to note that our return to Jesus includes a return to those Jesus loves—the family of God. **\*You cannot return to Jesus and hate the Church, your brothers and sisters in Christ, the bride of Christ!\***

--What should we do when we return to Jesus? Strengthen others!

--**(33-34)** It is hard for Peter to believe this of himself. As it is for all of us until we see it! **\*The rest of the disciples felt the same, as Jesus made it clear that they would all stumble and abandon Him that night (Mt. 26:31-35).\***

--Jesus then makes His knowledge of Peter's denial unmistakable. See also: **Mt. 26:34; Mk. 14:30; Jn. 13:38.**

**Verses 35-38: *And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?"***

***So they said, "Nothing."***

***Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."***

***So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords."***

***And He said to them, "It is enough."***

--**(35)** Jesus brings their minds back to when He sent them out two-by-two to do ministry on His behalf (**Lk. 9:3; 10:4**). They brought nothing and lacked nothing.

--(36) Now Jesus is telling them that with Him gone, the focus of the enemy will be on them, and that they should use all practical means available as provision from Him.

--The **word** is a reference to protection and not conquest.

--(37) Jesus lets them know that **Isaiah 53:12** refers to Him! The prophetic word about the Messiah has a starting and finishing point, and they were closing in on the most important mile-marker!

--(38) What are the disciples thinking about? Swords. Imagine putting a money bag, knapsack, sandals, and two swords on a table in front of 11 men. What would they focus on? Praise God for His patience with us!

--**It is enough**. . . is a strange phrase to translate. It seems like Jesus is actually saying, *Enough of that!* \*Jesus is making it clear His focus is not hand-to-hand combat!\*

**Verses 39-46: Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."**

**And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

**When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."**

--(39-40) Interestingly enough, we see that Jesus also had habits. One of which was regularly going to Gethsemane, no doubt for fellowship with His Father and His disciples.

**\*John 18:1-2: When Jesus had spoke these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.\***

--Certainly, Jesus knew what Judas knew. The whole scene carries a similar feeling to Daniel's decision to pray, knowing he would be caught.

--Jesus commands His disciples to pray. The whole scene here is couched between this command—**40+46**. Jesus commands His disciples and then shows them what it looks like to observe His command.

--I don't imagine for a moment that they ever forgot His prayers in Gethsemane!

--We will all face temptation in life, but we do not have to **enter into temptation**. The door will open, but we choose whether or not to go in. We never get dragged through the door. There is always a way of escape (**1 Cor. 10:13**).

--Despite what anyone else may think, Jesus says prayer matters when it comes to resisting temptation. Spiritual strength only comes through spiritual means.

--**(41-42)** We are told that eight of the disciples are left at one point, and three more are taken farther (**Mt. 26:36-37**), where Jesus becomes sorrowful and deeply distressed.

--He goes off a distance and then kneels, with His face to the ground (**Mt. 26:39**).

**\*Matthew 26:38: Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."\***

--How can anyone explain this holy scene? The Son of Man, seeking the sympathetic prayers of His friends. The Son of Man, weighing out the cost of sin. The Son of Man, uniting His will with the Father to accept the cup of divine wrath.

--The **cup** was a picture of the wrath of God: **Ps. 75:7-8; Isa. 51:17-23; Jer. 25:15-29**, and was used in reference to the cross by Jesus Himself (**Mt. 20:22-23**).

**\*John 18:11: So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"\***

--The Bible, without controversy, clearly teaches that Jesus Christ took our sins and iniquities on Himself (**Isa. 53:6+10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13**).

--Our Savior took this unimaginable cup from His Father's hand so that you and I could accept the cup of blessing from His hand.

--His prayer was no sign of weakness. His prayer was an expression of moral perfection. He was right to hope in His Father, to hate sin with an unimaginable agony, and to trust in His Father with a fully surrendered will.

--His obedience to take this cup from His Father's hand secured our salvation.

**\*Romans 5:19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.\***

**\*Hebrews 5:7-8: who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, through He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,\***

--Jesus Christ *learned obedience* experientially as a man. He accepted all the suffering and difficulty in the path of the will of God. No other human would have ever had the courage, strength, fortitude, trust, surrender, and strong obedience necessary to weigh sin and knowingly accept this cup.

--**(43-44)** If you or I were to struggle with temptation to the very end of all physical resistance, if necessary, God would send supernatural assistance to aid our obedience to Him. \*We also see this supernatural angelic intervention in Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.\*

\*MacDuff (Heavenly Aspirations!, pg. 67): “And since he bore suffering as a man, and received comfort as a man, there is nothing inconsistent in the circumstance that he should obtain assistance from one of those ministering spirits who are sent forth to minister to the heirs of salvation.”\*

--Jesus is strengthened by angels to continue to agonize. The weight of what is coming is so powerful that even on a cold night (**Jn. 18:18**), Jesus’ body is affected by hematidrosis—a medical condition where the capillaries dilate and burst so that blood runs through the sweat glands. \*Naturally, Luke would be interested in this detail as a physician.\*

--In this moment, Jesus also becomes their Example and our Example. Yes, we will never drink the exact cup that Jesus drank, but we will drink of some cup of suffering from our Father’s hand as we walk through this sin-sick world in obedience to Him.

--Jesus made that clear to these men: **Mark 10:38-39: *But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;”***

--We will all face a portion of suffering in the will of God in this life. What do we do? Will we surrender to God’s will, or hand the cup back to live out our own will?

--Jesus has shown us what to do in these pivotal moments!

- 1) Pray to our Father for deliverance. \*We should always hope in His mercy!\*
- 2) Remember the cup that Jesus took for us. \*We face real suffering, but nothing like Him!\*
- 3) Trust our souls to our Creator and obediently drink what our Father puts into our hands. \*He will turn everything to our good as we love Him and walk in the path of His will!\*
- 4) Remember how patient and kind our Savior is with weak disciples!

--**(45-46)** We know He came to them three times, and each time they were sleeping (**Mk. 14:37-42**). Can you imagine seeing Him, hearing Him, being warned by Him, falling asleep again and again and again, and then being woken up by Him so that they could be betrayed?

**\*Mark 14:40: *And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.***\*

--Where could you find a friend, teacher, or God as patient and loving as Jesus Christ?! No other being of inexhaustible patience and love exists.

--***When He rose up from prayer.*** . . . the battle has been won. Jesus again moves forward toward the cross settled, at peace, in control, courageous, victorious.

--This scene always makes me think of Faber's hymn, *The Agony*, which ends with:

Ever when tempted, make me see,  
Beneath the olive's moon-pierced shade,  
My God, alone, outstretched, and bruised,  
And bleeding, on the earth He made,

And make me feel it was my sin,  
As though no other sin were there,  
That was to Him who bears the world,  
A load that He could scarcely bear.

Jesus Christ drank the cup of God's wrath for me and for you. Do you believe this?