

## Gospel of Luke 22

### “Are you the Son of God?”

11 & 15 February 2024

## Background Notes

- Passover immediately preceded the Bread Feast.
- A Passover sheep was sacrificed at the temple, then taken home for a family feast.
- Though it was women who carried water jars, wealthy households would send a man servant.
- Every evening meal during Passover week could be called ‘the Passover’.
- The Roman military garrison in Jerusalem blew a trumpet every morning, which the population termed ‘cockcrow’ or ‘a rooster crowing’.
- Ancient rabbis, the DSS, and Josephus report priestly abuses similarly to the NT.
- Ancient covenants were ratified by blood, but no one ever drank that blood.
- Passover remembered and celebrated Israel’s departure from Egypt, when they sacrificed a lamb and households ate it together in a meal with unleavened bread.

### 1. Judas conspires with the temple leaders (1-6 ).

- Passover: The bread festival + Passover, could be called by either name.
- “There was about this time Jesus, a wise man, ... a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles... When Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross... The tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.63f

### 2. Jesus and his disciples celebrate Passover (7-16).

- Fulfillment: It was commonly believed that Messiah’s kingdom would start with a great worldwide Passover feast.

### 3. Jesus institutes the Lord’ Table (17-23).

- Query: When would the kingdom come?
- A minority of manuscripts omit vers 19b-20.

#### “Communion” theories

- Presence: The Holy Spirit in our midst.
- Trans-substance: The bread and drink become Jesus’ physical body.
- Con-substance: The bread and drink bring Jesus’ physical or mystical body.
- Symbol: The bread and drink are only a powerless memorial that does nothing.
- Commandment: Do this! All Christians do.
- Communion: Personal encounter.
- Remembrance: ~Reminder. Jesus shifts the people’s focus away from the Passover lamb to himself as our memorial sacrifice.

### Passover feast

- Origin: "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD." Exodus 12:14
- Judaism: "This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate when they came from Egypt."
- Gospel: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" John 6:52

### Blood

- (1) Material: Circulatory fluid.
- (2) Emotional: Strong feelings & values.
- (3) Metaphorical: Sacrificial death.
- (4) Ceremonial: Purification agent.

### Blood rules

- You shall not eat the blood of any creature... Whoever eats it shall be cut off. Lev. 17:14
- Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, "Here is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you." Exo. 24:8
- "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Jer. 31:31
- "This cup is the new covenant in my blood . Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Cor. 11:25

## 4. Jesus settles a dispute for his apostles (24-30).

### 'Christian' disputes

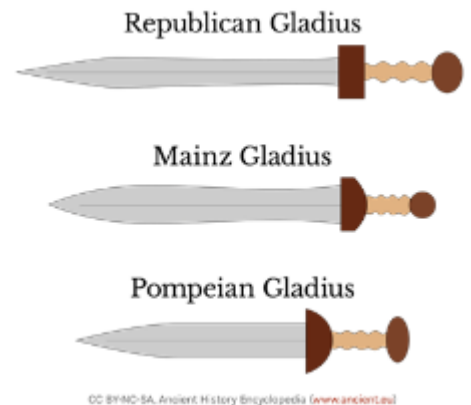
- Catholic: Who is the real pope? ☒ wars.
- Orthodox: Which metropolitan has more authority? → excommunication.
- Protestant: Which is the true theology? → books.
- Evangelical: Who has more of the Holy Spirit? → sheep stealing, → stagnation, → merger.
- Missionary: Which mode of baptism? → split.
- Church: Which colour for new carpets? → quit.

## 5. Jesus issues instructions to his apostles (31-38).

- Query: Why a sword? (The Romans had disarmed the population, forbidding weapons.)
- Query: Enough what? Swords? Talk?
- Query: What transgressors? He was sinless.

## 6. Jesus prays that the Father's will be done (39-46).

- 15 to 20 minutes' walk.
- "Do not bring us to the time of trial." 11:4
- When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.
- The oldest manuscript and others omit verses 43 and 44.



## 7. Judas leads officials who arrest Jesus (47-53).

- Kiss: Embrace, not a smooch.
- Why: “the Son of Man”

### “This is your hour”

- Darkness: Night was commonly associated with evil and crime, the time when demons ruled and witchcraft operated.
- Psalm 91:5-6: “You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.”

## 8. Peter denies knowing Jesus three times (54-62).

### A mistake in the Gospel?

- Problem: Live chickens were not allowed in Jerusalem. *Mishnah* (m.Bava Kamma 7:7)
- Solution: The temple had a morning crier, and the Romans military a trumpet sound called *Gallicinium* (cock crowing).

## 9. Jesus reveals to temple leaders who he is (63-71).

- Scoffers: “Jesus never said, ‘I am God’!” (Instead, he showed who he was.)
- Jesus did claim to be the Messiah
- Seated: “The awaited kingdom starts now, and you guys are not in it!”
- “You say”: Jesus’ answer is taken as affirmative: “Yes, I am.”



### “Son of God”

- Son of God: A well-known title used of the awaited Messiah.
- Origin: Yahweh said to David about his son Solomon, “I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.” 2 Sam. 7:14
- Meaning: “He claims to be Messiah, a king.” Luke 23:3