

## ***Luke's Gospel: Chapter 22 v 35 to 71***

### ***Betrayal and arrest***

#### ***Scripture must be fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 22 v 35 to 38)***

“But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack” (v 36) – the intent of Jesus seems to be, ‘I am on the point of leaving you, and when I am gone, you must use common sense means for your provision and protection.’ Such practical considerations were not needed before, but were needed now. The disciples had been sent out on a mission without Jesus before (Luke 10 v 1 to 17), but then they were received with good will and hospitality. Now they faced a hostile world without Jesus, and must be prepared.

“This Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’” (v 37) – Jesus had previously told his disciples that he would be rejected and crucified (Luke 17 v 25; Luke 18 v 31 to 33). Here Jesus told them that this would happen soon. “For what is written about me has its fulfilment” – this seems to have the sense of, ‘This will all be accomplished soon’. “It is enough” (v 38), following the offer of two swords, may mean ‘Enough of this kind of talk’, as a firm way of ending the conversation...

#### ***Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives (Luke 22 v 39 to 46)***

See Matthew 26 v 36 to 46. Olive trees are grown for their oil. The olives would be put into a press, which would crush the olives to squeeze the oil out of them. The press was called a ‘Gethsemane’, and oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. “Pray that you may not enter into temptation” (v 41) – as Jesus began to pray, he began by warning the disciples of *their* need to pray. Jesus himself needed to pray for strength to pass the difficult ordeal to come. But the disciples had their own ordeal to face, and needed all the more to pray that they might not ‘enter into temptation’ – that is, to give into temptation. He “knelt down and prayed” (v 41) – here is the passionate account of an eyewitness (i.e. one of the disciples), who reported this to Luke. Only an eyewitness would remember a detail such as Jesus praying “about a stone’s throw” away.

- What did Jesus suffer during these long night hours in the garden? What was the root cause of his distress? What did he mean by “this cup” (v 42)? What exactly was Jesus’ petition? Was it answered, and if so, how? See Hebrews 5 v 7, 8 and Psalm 119 v 50.

What cup? The cup of God’s wrath and indignation against sin (Jeremiah 25 v 15; Psalm 75 v 8); the cup of salvation (Psalm 116 v 13). Three times (Matthew 26 v 44) Jesus begged the Father, if there was *any* other way for man to be saved, *anything* but the cross. This proves that there is *no* other way for a person to be saved except through Christ’s death on the cross, because if there was some other way, then his prayer was not answered and his death would have been in vain (Acts 4 v 12).

“Being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood” (v 44) – Jesus prayed to the point where his sweat became like blood falling down to the ground. Luke did not say that Jesus’ sweat *was* blood, but that it was *like* blood – either in the way that it poured off his brow, or because it was tinged with blood from the burst capillaries and dilated pores on his brow.

#### ***Betrayal and arrest of Jesus (Luke 22 v 47 to 53)***

- Why do you think Jesus was ready, in a way his disciples were not, for what had to be faced?

***[MORE OVER...]***

Judas greeted Jesus, even giving him the customary kiss, which was used to identify Jesus to the authorities who came to arrest him. It is hard to find more hypocritical words in the Bible than these. With one sword, Peter (John 18 v 10) was willing to take on a small army of men; yet he could not pray with Jesus one hour. Had Jesus wanted help, there were more than 12 legions of angels ready to come to his aid! A Roman legion typically consisted of 4,000 to 5,000 men – this number is impressive, considering that one angel once killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (2 Kings 19 v 35)!

### ***Peter denies Jesus (Luke 22 v 54 to 62)***

- Observe the experiences through which Peter passed on that fateful night. What were the contributing factors that finally led to his denial of Jesus? What are the lessons for us?

Before we judge Peter too severely, we should examine ourselves. How many times have we denied the Lord, and lost precious opportunities to share the Gospel with others? Do we talk when we should listen? Do we argue when we should obey? Do we sleep when we should pray? Do we fight when we should submit? Peter repented (he “wept bitterly” v 62), and Jesus, after a private meeting with him (Luke 24 v 33, 34), forgave him publicly (see John 21)...

### ***Jesus is mocked (Luke 22 v 63 to 65)***

“Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him” (v 63) – Luke did not record the proceedings of this first, night-time trial of Jesus before the high priest and the hastily gathered Council (Matthew 26 v 57 to 68), but he did record what happened immediately after that trial – that Jesus was mocked and beaten by the religious authorities. “They also blindfolded him” (v 64) – blinded, Jesus endured beatings. Matthew 26 v 67 and Mark 14 v 65 add that they also spat in his face.

### ***Jesus before the Council (Luke 22 v 66 to 71)***

The purpose of the Jewish Council was to find legal grounds for putting Jesus to death. It had been previously decided by the chief priests and elders that he must die (Matthew 26 v 3 to 5), but legal justification for their actions was needed, enabling them to secure Pilate’s confirmation of their verdict...

- The one definite charge, on which the decision to have Jesus put to death was taken, was his claim to be the Christ (v 65). How did Jesus declare that his claim would be vindicated? See Acts 2 v 32 to 36.

This trial, which started at night-time, was illegal, as according to Jewish law, all criminal trials had to be conducted in daylight. There were many other illegalities:

1. Criminal cases could not be tried during the Passover season
2. All evidence had to be guaranteed by two independent witnesses
3. A trial always began by presenting evidence for the innocence of the accused, before the evidence of guilt was offered.

Altogether Jesus would undergo six trials – three Jewish trials (starting during that night), followed by three Roman trials (the following day):

1. before Annas (John 18 v 12 to 14)
2. before Caiaphas (Matthew 26 v 57 to 68)
3. before the Council, “chief priests and elders” (Matthew 27 v 1, 2, Luke 22 v 66 to 71)
4. before Pilate (Luke 23 v 1 to 5, John 18 v 28 to 38)
5. before Herod (Luke 23 v 6 to 12)
6. before Pilate again (John 18 v 39 to 19 v 16).