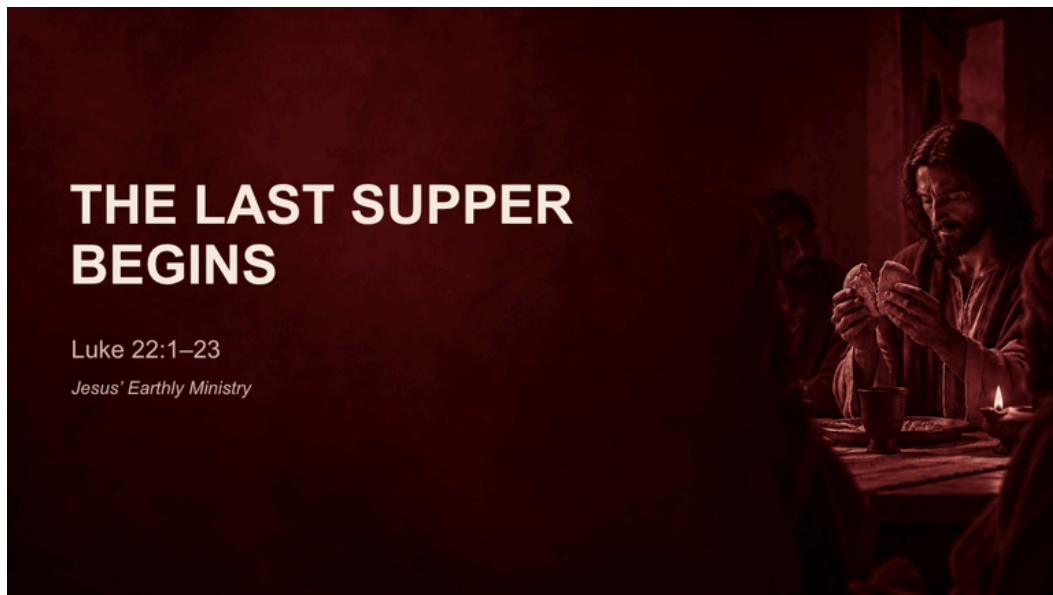


WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



The Last Supper Begins
Luke 22:1-23

Provided by



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Luke 22:1-23

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people's reaction. Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around. Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together." "Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him. He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there. When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. "But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him." The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

Day 1: When Fear Writes the Plan

Devotional

Have you ever made a choice mainly because you were afraid of what people would think? Fear can sound practical. It tells us to avoid embarrassment, protect our place, or keep everyone satisfied. Yet when fear becomes the voice directing us, it can lead us away from what is right while convincing us that we are simply being careful. Luke opens this scene with Passover approaching and religious leaders plotting to kill Jesus. They know what they want, but they are “afraid of the people’s reaction.” Their fear does not stop the plan. It determines how they carry it out. They want Jesus removed without facing the crowd. A sacred celebration is near, but their attention is fixed on protecting power and controlling appearances. Then Luke takes us deeper. Satan enters Judas. The spiritual enemy is real and active, yet Judas is not described as a helpless object. He goes to the leaders, discusses the betrayal, agrees to the money, and begins searching for an opportunity. Scripture holds two truths together. Satan works against Jesus, and people remain responsible for the choices through which they cooperate with evil. We cannot blame every sinful choice on pressure, fear, temptation, or another person. Christ calls us to bring those forces into His light and choose faithfulness.

Going Deeper

Spiritual warfare is not an excuse for avoiding responsibility. Ephesians 6:10–18 teaches believers to stand against spiritual evil by receiving God’s strength and using the resources He provides. We resist by living in truth, righteousness, faith, prayer, and readiness for the gospel. The enemy often works through ordinary fears and desires, but Jesus never abandons us to face them alone.

Quote

“Yet Luke does not describe Judas as an innocent person being carried along against his will. Judas goes to the leaders, discusses the best way to betray Jesus, accepts their promise of money, agrees to the plan, and begins looking for an opportunity. Satan’s involvement and Judas’s responsibility stand together in the passage.”

Bible Verse

“The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people’s reaction. Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren’t around.” - Luke 22:1-6

Reflection Question

Where does fear of another person’s reaction have the strongest pull on your choices? What specific act of obedience can you choose before fear chooses for you?

Today’s Practice

Before one decision today, pause and name the fear influencing you. Ask, “What would faithfulness to Jesus look like here?” Then take one honest step in that direction.

Prayer

Jesus, expose the fears that quietly direct me. Strengthen me against temptation, forgive my sinful choices, and teach me to obey You with courage and honesty. Amen.

Day 2: Prepared Before We Arrive

Devotional

How do you respond when you enter a situation feeling unprepared? Some of us rush, some freeze, and some try to control every detail. The disciples are preparing for Passover while danger gathers around Jesus. Yet Jesus is not anxious or surprised. He gives Peter and John clear instructions and sends them into the city. They will meet a man carrying a pitcher, follow him to a house, speak to the owner, and find a large upstairs room already set up. When they go, they find everything just as Jesus said. Luke does not invite us to become fascinated with hidden codes or reconstruct every street in Jerusalem. He shows us Jesus moving deliberately toward the meal and the suffering that will follow. The leaders are looking for an opportunity to arrest Him, but their plotting does not place Jesus outside the Father's purpose. Jesus is not a victim caught unaware. He prepares the table at which He will explain the meaning of His death. Peter and John do not know everything that is coming, but they know the next faithful step is to go, find, prepare. Often obedience works that way. Christ may not show us the whole road, but He gives enough light for the next step.

Going Deeper

God's providence does not make human choices meaningless. Peter and John still have to go and prepare. Judas still chooses betrayal. The leaders still plot. Yet none of those choices can overturn God's saving purpose. At the cross, human evil reaches its terrible height, and God accomplishes redemption without becoming the author of sin. This gives believers a sober confidence: evil is real, obedience matters, and God is not defeated.

Quote

"Jesus is not caught in events that have moved beyond His control. He knows suffering is ahead, and He deliberately shares this meal with His disciples before it begins. He wants them to remember His explanation when they later see Him arrested and taken away."

Bible Verse

"Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.' 'Where do you want us to prepare it?' they asked him. He replied, 'As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.' They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there." — Luke 22:7-13

Refection Question

Where are you waiting for complete certainty before taking a faithful step? What instruction from Jesus is already clear enough for you to obey today?

Today's Practice

Choose one act of obedience you have delayed because you do not know how everything will turn out. Take the first concrete step today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You were not surprised by the road to the cross. Give me confidence in Your purpose and willingness to obey the next thing You have made clear. Amen.

Day 3: Remember the Rescue

Devotional

What meal, tradition, or story helps you remember who you are and where you came from? Families return to certain tables because memory shapes identity. Passover did that for Israel. Each year God's people remembered that they had once been slaves in Egypt and that the Lord had acted to set them free. At this Passover, Jesus says He has been "very eager" to eat with His disciples before His suffering begins. He knows the meal's old meaning, and He knows that its meaning is about to be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. The rescue from Egypt was real and foundational. Now Jesus is preparing His disciples to understand a greater rescue from sin and death. He takes the cup, gives thanks, and tells them to share it. He also looks forward to the day when the Kingdom of God comes in fullness. The meal reaches backward and forward. It remembers what God has done, interprets what Jesus is about to do, and creates hope for what God will finally complete. Christian remembrance is not being trapped in the past. It is allowing God's saving action to tell us who we are and where our story is going.

Going Deeper

In Exodus 12, the Passover lamb and meal marked God's deliverance of Israel from judgment and slavery. The people were commanded to keep telling the story so later generations would know that their freedom began with God's action. At the Last Supper, Jesus does not discard that story. He brings it to its deepest fulfillment. The God who rescued His people from Egypt now acts through the Son to rescue sinners and form a people for His Kingdom.

Quote

"Passover was not simply information about a distant event. It formed the worship and identity of God's people in the present."

Bible Verse

"When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, 'I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, 'Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.' - Luke 22:14-18

Reflection Question

Which act of God's grace are you most likely to forget when life becomes hurried or difficult? How would remembering God's rescue change the way you face today's pressure?

Today's Practice

At one meal today, pause before eating. Name one way God has shown you mercy, thank Him aloud or silently, and let that memory shape your next conversation.

Prayer

God of rescue, keep me from forgetting Your mercy. Let the story of what You have done in Christ shape my identity, steady my hope, and deepen my gratitude. Amen.

Day 4: Given For You

Devotional

How do you receive a gift that cost the giver more than you could ever repay? We often feel pressure to prove that we deserve generosity. We promise to make it up, become worthy, or show that the giver made a good investment. Jesus leaves no room for that kind of bargaining at the table. He takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and says, “This is my body, which is given for you.” After supper He takes the cup and identifies it with the new covenant, confirmed by His blood and poured out as a sacrifice “for you.” The center of the meal is not what the disciples offer Jesus. It is what Jesus freely gives to them. The religious leaders are trying to take Jesus’ life, and Judas is arranging to hand Him over. Yet their actions do not explain the deepest meaning of the cross. Jesus gives Himself. His body and blood are not payment for the deserving. They are grace for sinners. The disciples will soon fail badly, but the confidence of the covenant will rest in Christ’s faithfulness, not in what they manage to prove around the table.

Going Deeper

Jeremiah 31:31–34 promised a new covenant unlike the one God’s people had broken. The Lord says, “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” He also promises, “I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.” Jesus identifies His blood as the sacrifice that confirms those promises. The new covenant includes pardon for guilt and transformation of the heart. Athanasius, a fourth-century pastor who defended the truth that Jesus is fully God, wrote, “He surrendered His body to death instead of all, and offered it to the Father.” The words “instead of all” help us see the heart of the gospel: Christ acts on behalf of sinners who cannot rescue themselves. The enemies around Jesus intend to take His life, but Jesus gives Himself as the sacrifice we need.

Quote

“The new covenant is not a call for sinners to repair themselves and then approach God. God is the One who promises to forgive, claim a people as His own, and work within them. The confidence of the covenant rests in what Jesus gives, not in what His disciples manage to prove around the table.”

Bible Verse

“He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.” — Luke 22:19-20

Reflection Question

Where are you still trying to prove that you deserve God’s grace? What would change if you rested your confidence in what Jesus gave rather than what you can repay?

Today’s Practice

Write the words “given for you” where you will see them today. Each time you notice them, thank Jesus and release one attempt to earn what He gives by grace.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself for me. Free me from trying to earn Your grace. Help me receive Your forgiveness, trust Your covenant, and live from a grateful heart. Amen.

Day 5: Remember, Repent, and Believe

Devotional

Have you ever wanted to hide because you knew someone had seen the truth about you? The table in Luke 22 holds both grace and betrayal. Jesus has just spoken of His body given and His blood poured out. Then He announces that the betrayer is sitting among them as a friend. Nothing at this table is hidden from Him. Jesus says His death has been determined, yet He also warns of the sorrow awaiting the one who betrays Him. God's purpose does not excuse Judas, and Judas's sin does not derail God's purpose. The disciples begin asking which of them could do such a thing. The question should not send us into speculation about who is worst. It should make us honest about our own need for grace. Jesus knows His disciples fully, including their pride, fear, confusion, and coming failure. Still, He freely says, "given for you." That is not permission to treat sin lightly. It is the reason we can repent without hiding and believe without pretending. The Savior who exposes our sin is the Savior who gives Himself for sinners. Remembering Him should lead to gratitude that changes our conduct.

Going Deeper

The Lord's Supper is not a reward for people who have successfully proved themselves. It proclaims the death of Christ as the only sufficient hope for sinners. Coming honestly means examining ourselves, confessing sin, and trusting the mercy Jesus purchased. We do not prepare by making ourselves worthy. We prepare by turning again toward the Worthy One.

Quote

"Let that remembrance lead you to repent and believe. Repent of the attitudes, words, and actions that do not reflect gratitude for His selfless grace. Believe again that your forgiveness and hope rest in what Jesus has done for you."

Bible Verse

"But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him." The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing." - Luke 22:21-23

Refection Question

What sin, failure, or divided loyalty are you tempted to hide from Jesus? What concrete act of repentance and grateful obedience will you bring with you as you prepare for Communion?

Today's Practice

At one meal today, pause over the words "given for you." Thank Jesus for His sacrifice, confess one sin honestly, and choose one action that reflects gratitude for His grace.

Prayer

Jesus, You know me fully and still gave Yourself for sinners. Lead me to honest repentance and living faith. Prepare my heart to remember You with gratitude and obey You with joy. Amen.