

# *The Gospel of Luke*

## *Lesson 39: Luke 22:39-71*

Into the darkness Jesus' disciples followed. The betrayer was at hand, lying in wait, watching for an opportune time (Luke 4:13) to seize the Shepherd and scatter the sheep. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41, NKJV), Christ instructed. But they did neither.

While they slept, Jesus labored in prayer only a stones-throw away. They were unmindful of the trials that laid before them, oblivious to Christ's spiritual wrestling, His physical suffering and emotional pain, unaware of the increasing distance between them (Mark 14:35).

When they opened their eyes, they'd be separated by clubs and swords, soldiers and servants, physical barriers, and crowds of religious leaders. Christ would no longer be within their reach, and they must decide whether they would stand by His side (John 18:15, 19:25-27), follow at a distance (Luke 22:54), or flee into the darkness (Matthew 26:56).

*Read Luke 22:39-46.*

1. Turn to Matthew 26 and read the parallel account in verses 36-46.

Upon entering Gethsemane, Jesus instructed Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (Matthew 26:37) to "pray that [they] may not enter into temptation" (v.40). Why is prayer an effective weapon against temptation? (Consider how one succumbs to temptation in James 1:13-16.)

2. What temptations would soon present themselves?
3. Mark 14:37 reveals that Christ's instruction was first directed at Simon Peter. Why is this significant?

4. What did Jesus understand about the enemy that caused Him to repeatedly wake and warn them? Consider Deuteronomy 25:18, 2 Samuel 17:2, and Luke 4:13.

According to Matthew 26:41, what did Christ understand about the flesh? (v.43, Luke 22:45)

5. What *should* the disciples have been praying? How can you personally apply His instruction to “*stay and watch*”?
6. According to Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, and Jeremiah 25:15, what does the “*cup*” Jesus spoke of signify?
7. How did Christ’s prayer change from verse 39 to verse 42 (Matthew 26)? For whose sake did He continue in earnest supplication? What occurred in Luke 22:43-44?

*Read Luke 22:47-53.*

8. What weapon did Peter employ when he was faced with a tangible enemy? Considering his garden slumber, what does this reveal about Peter’s methods to fight the Lord’s battles?<sup>i</sup> In what ways are you like Peter?

9. Read the account in John 18:1-11. How did Jesus approach His enemy? Why? (Think on Isaiah 50:5, John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 8:29.)

10. What occurred when He spoke the words, “I am He”? (vv.5-6)

11. Considering Peter’s subsequent actions, what does this reveal about his perceived role and his true understanding of Christ’s identity? (See also Matthew 26:52-54.)

12. Reread John 18:8-9. What do Christ’s actions reveal about His care for you?

How does this knowledge enable us to obey Christ’s instruction in verse 11?

13. Return to Luke 22. Why did the disciples flee? Was their flight necessary? Why or why not?

*Keep reading: Luke 22:54-62.*

14. How did Peter follow the Lord? Did his actions set him up to fall? Explain.

What was his motive per Matthew 26:58?

Contrast his actions with those of John (John 18:15-16).

What instructions are given in Psalm 1:1 and Romans 16:12-13 to aid us in similar situations?

15. Why did Peter refuse to associate himself with Jesus in spite of the evidence? (See Matthew 26:73, Luke 22:59, John 18:15-17, 26.) What lesson lies herein for us?
  
16. Why do you believe Peter failed to recall Christ's words the first time he denied his association with Him?
  
17. Luke 22:61 says, "*the Lord turned and looked at Peter*". Through the crowded courtyard, the eyes of the One for whom he vehemently declared his love and devotion met his gaze. How did this affect Peter?

Read Isaiah 53:3.

18. If Peter were able to relive that night, what might he have done differently? Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.

*Read Luke 22, verses 63-71.*

19. Why didn't Christ's words have any bearing upon the council?
20. Read Matthew 26:57-68 and Mark 14:55-65, and then read Luke 23:1. Upon whom did they intend to place the blame for Christ's death? What were they willing to do remove the threat of His presence?

How does mankind do the same today?

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<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, Luke records that the *right* ear of the high priest's servant was cut off. If Peter was right handed, this insinuates that he attacked the enemy from the rear.