

- Well if you've just joined us this week, we've been on the road to Jerusalem with Jesus.
- We've been looking at the last couple of chapters of Luke and today we come to the final day before the death of Jesus.
- I hope that you'll have that passage open in front of you. That's Luke 22 on page 1043 in the pew bibles.
- I wonder if you have ever planned something really big? Let's say a wedding.
- You've got everything planned out. Flowers, hair, musicians, minister, dresses. All down to the t.
- And then comes the day you've been waiting for. You've got it all planned out and you sit there and watch it happen like a thing of beauty.
 - Confession: I'm not that organised but I can imagine how good it would be!
- Well here in today's passage we see two plans being played out before us.
 - We firstly see a plan of destruction
 - And then a plan of salvation.
 - And then the two plans meet in the end.
- If you were reading Luke's gospel for the first time, you would think that 21:38 would be a fantastic place to end the gospel.
- We were left last week with Jesus teaching at the temple and then going out to pray; people coming early to listen to his fantastic teaching.
 - What a great ending! They all lived happily ever after!
- But no.
- Thankfully, and yes, thankfully, the story doesn't end there.
- Our passage today starts off with the chief priests wanting to find a way to kill Jesus.
 - Why? Because they were afraid of the people.
 - Jesus had a growing popularity at this point in time. And he was probably a lot more popular than the teachers of the Law!
 - Why? Because:
 - He healed the sick
 - He taught the scriptures well
 - He performed miracles
 - He claimed to be the Son of God
 - He exposed the teachers of the law for who they really were
 - And they were afraid that their authority would be undermined by his teaching and by the people.

- They hated Jesus because he did the things that they were supposed to do as the leaders of Israel.
- He was the true and perfect leader of the Jews and they didn't like it.
- They wanted Jesus dead.
- Judas agrees help them out immensely and what for? For some cash.
- Verse 5 describes them as 'delighted'. You can almost imagine them licking their lips saying 'We've got him now!'
- Judas then begins to look for the opportunity to have Jesus arrested.
- If you were an outsider looking in, you would probably think that Jesus was a victim of a dirty, brutal betrayal wouldn't you?
 - The betrayal of a close friend
 - But is he?
 - Well yes he is! But, not at all.
 - Whilst Judas has a plan of destruction, Jesus has a plan of salvation.
- It was on the day of the passover that all these events took place. The passover was a festival where the Jews would celebrate their rescue from Egypt and slavery 2000?? years before.
 - They celebrated the fact that when God came to kill all the firstborns in Egypt in the final plague, he passed over the Israelite's firstborn sons.
 - They had to kill a lamb and put its blood on their doorposts as a sign for angel of the Lord to pass over the household and to not kill their son.
 - The lamb died instead of the son.
 - This day was turned into a yearly festival so that the Israelites would never forget their rescue.
- So being good Jews, Jesus and his disciples planned to celebrate the passover.
- Jesus sent Peter and John out with some very specific instructions. Most importantly, he didn't reveal the location.
 - Why? So that Judas couldn't find out where they were going.
 - Why is this important? Because Jesus wasn't ready to die just yet. He is the one who is in complete control. He is calling the shots here.
 - And everything happened as planned.
- So they go up to the room expecting the same old words that would be said at the passover but something different happens.
- Jesus says in v15 I have eagerly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God. Again in V18 'I will not drink...until the Kingdom of God comes.
- I think this raises a lot of questions! It would have for the disciples!
 - Are you going to suffer Jesus?

- Why won't you eat and drink?
 - When will it be fulfilled?
 - We see the answer in the following verses
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- He says that the bread is his body, and that the cup is the new covenant in his blood.
 - He makes the passover meal about himself.
 - Yes. He is going to suffer.
 - Yes. His body will be broken and his blood will pour out like the lamb on that very first passover.
 - It's all fulfilled in Jesus. In his death and then his resurrection.
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- You see when Peter and John were going to prepare the passover, they were going to prepare a meal.
 - But when Judas betrayed Jesus, he prepared the lamb of God for slaughter...//
 - 22 The Son of man will go as it has been decreed...//
 - The Jews celebrated the fact that their lambs died in the place of their firstborn sons, their everything.
 - We now celebrate the fact that Jesus has died in our place. He died the death that we deserve because of our rejection of God.
 - The Israelites celebrated the passover to remember their rescue from slavery in Egypt
 - We now celebrate the Lord's supper to remember our rescue from our slavery to sin and our death.
 - But woe to the person who betrays Jesus. To the person who doesn't turn to him for salvation. To the person who doesn't accept Jesus Christ as Lord
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- Since Jesus revealed that one of the disciples would betray him, the disciples started to argue with themselves who it might be!
 - but then, somehow, the discussion turns into who is the greatest
 - I used to go to a boy's private school when I was in Sydney. And at this school, sport was everything. I can just imagine a similar discussion happening in the Under 9's rugby team. The discussion about who's the weakest link in the team could definitely quickly turn into a heated discussion about who's the greatest.
 - Like a bunch of school boys
 - The same is happening here with the disciples! And it's one of those moments where you just can't help but think:
 - 'What are you doing guys!?'
 - Jesus has just told you that his body will be broken and his blood poured out for you and you're talking about who's the greatest!?

- Jesus is quick to speak up. He says, don't be like that! Don't be like the leaders who have authority who make a big deal of themselves!
 - The leaders who give just so that people would give them glory!
- But the greatest should become like the youngest, the smallest, the lowest.
- The one who is the leader, the one in authority, should become like the one with least authority.
- And Jesus is the ultimate image of this. In V27, I am the one among you who serves.
 - Jesus is the one who well and truly serves.
 - He's the one who goes from the king of the Jews. The king of creation; to the ultimate low. To death on the cross.
 - The one who's hands flung stars into space would be surrendered to cruel nails.
 - The same voice that commanded the wind and sea to calm would cry out 'my God my God, why have you forsaken me.'
 - Why? so that we will have life.
 - So that the ones who stand by him and turn to him for forgiveness will inherit the kingdom...will receive eternal life.
- But will remaining in Jesus be easy? Well the next section says that there will be tough times.
 - V31 - Satan has asked to sift all of you like wheat. And brave Peter steps in to say that he won't fall away no matter what! But as we know, he will deny Jesus 3 times.
 - There will be times where we fail.
 - When we give in to Satan's lies and deceptions.
 - But God uses even sinful people like us for his glory. Just like he used Peter.
 - 36 - If you have a purse, take it and also a bag, and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one!
 - Now this verse doesn't literally mean go and buy a sword because we are going to have a military uprising! Nor is it in support of America's gun laws
 - But be prepared for what is to come.
 - For the times when Christians and Christianity are put out way on the fringes.
 - For when people treat you differently, and not in a good way, because you are a Christian.
 - For when you are labeled an extreme, stubborn conservatist
 - As the leader is rejected, so will his followers be.
- When Jesus sent his disciples out on mission for the first time, they relied on the charity of the people as Jesus was popular.

- But in a couple of days, those same people will be shouting ‘Crucify him!’
 - Just as it was written in Isaiah 53:12 some 800? years earlier: ‘he was numbered with the transgressors’, **Transgressor is another way of saying sinner.**
 - And as we’ll see on Friday, He’ll be called a sinner, a blasphemer and will stand on trial as if he was one.
 - He says ‘this must be fulfilled in me.’ He says it twice, just in case we weren’t listening the first time: ‘Yes what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment.’
 - Literally meaning: everything that was written about Jesus, is about to end in Jesus.
 - This is going to happen. The prophecies that were written so long ago are going to be fulfilled.
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- Isaiah 53:5
 - But he was pierced for our transgressions
 - he was pierced for our iniquities
 - The punishment that brought us peace was upon him
 - and by his wounds we are healed
 - It’s all about Jesus! It’s all part of the plan!
 - The death of Jesus was not just a tragic case of betrayal but an act of salvation that has been pointed to from the very beginning of time!
 - It wasn’t an act of pure destruction but an act of pure love
 - What Judas intended for bad, God planned it for a glorious good...///
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- Jesus has reminded his disciples countless times that he was going to suffer and die.
 - But the disciples don’t really get it.
 - V38 We see them saying ‘Look lord we have two swords!’ as if they were going to overthrow the Romans with two swords and 12 men!..//
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- Well, have you noticed something about these two plans?
 - Remember:
 - The plan of destruction
 - the plan of salvation
 - The plan of destruction is the plan of salvation!
 - It’s all been part God’s plan from the very beginning, even from the Exodus all those years ago.
 - And it’s from verse 39 that the two plans meet.
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- We are taken out by Luke to the famous scene in the garden
 - Jesus withdraws from his disciples after and then he goes and prays.

- It's here that Jesus shows us what it means to pray in the face of temptations. In the times of trial and pain.
- And what it means to truly submit to God's will.
- We have no idea what it was like for Jesus to go through with this.
- It's here that Jesus has every power to run away and flee from the suffering that is to come.
- He has every power to do so!
- But what does he say? 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me, yet not my will, but yours be done'.
- We can't image how hard this would have been to say or mean.
 - He was in utter anguish and even after an angel came to strengthen him, he prayed even more.
 - And in the end, he prayed for God's will to be done. Not his own, but God's
- He rose, to find his disciples exhausted from sorrow.
 - Get up. Get up and pray IN ORDER THAT you will not fall into temptation
 - As a little aside...When faced with trials, what should we do?
 - Pray that we won't give in to temptation
 - And Pray SO THAT we won't give into temptation.
 - But ultimately, pray for Gods will to be done
- In 47, the mob comes up. This was Judas' time to 'not' shine. His plan of, what he thought was, destruction was beginning.
- In 49 and 50 one of the disciples cut off a servant's ear! Probably a misinterpretation of the verse 36! They were still expecting some form of battle and military uprising BUT. Jesus puts the ear right back into place.
- 'Have you come to me as if I'm leading a rebellion?'
- This interaction shows us what the next chapters are going to hold.
- Jesus' plan for salvation doesn't include violence towards those who kill him but forgiveness.
- We left last week with Jesus teaching in the temple daily where he rightly deserved to be.
- And this week we end with Jesus in the courtyard of the high priest. Right where he should be but in different circumstances.
- Luke wrote his gospel not for fun but so that Theopholis may have had certainty of the things that he has heard.
- To the Romans, you couldn't worship a crucified King. You wouldn't even speak of crucifixion.
- Even to some people today, the fact that God would give his son up to such a punishment is offensive.

- But we have seen today that it's all part of God's great plan for salvation.
- Jesus wasn't just a victim of a horrible betrayal but he planned all of this out to perfection.
 - And he lived it to perfection.
 - He went through with it.
 - He put God's will above his own.
 - He perfectly fulfilled everything that was written about him. Why?!
- Because he loves you!
- Because he's prepared a place for you in eternal life!
- He's taken the punishment that we deserve because God is in the business of saving people and calling them back to himself.
- He has risen indeed so that we can have eternal life.
- Have you accepted his invitation?
- If you have, rejoice! Because Jesus fulfilled everything that had been promised.
- If you haven't, know that God wants you to come home to him.
- He's promised forgiveness to all those who turn and believe. Nothing is stopping you.