

2020.4.5 Sunday Sermon <God Uses People> (Luke 22:1-13)

Call to Worship - Prayer by Pastor Kim (**Philippians 2:5**)

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus*

Scripture for the Sermon - Today's scripture is coming from **Luke 22:1-13**

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

22 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

The Last Supper

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Sermon -

My loving brothers and sisters, I am so thankful to give this worship to the Lord wherever we may be. I pray we can glorify His name through this Sunday worship and find peace in our hearts. Today, we want to look at how the Lord accomplishes things by using through right people. Let look at **Proverbs 16:4** together -

The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster.

God works through everything - especially with people. Let's observe, meditate, and apply today's scripture.

Key Point #1 - God uses following people for bad things (Verse 6)

Let's look at **Luke 22:6** again -

He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Here we see how the Lord selected people such as high priests, scribes, and Judas Iscariot to lead Jesus Christ into death. As we look at **Luke 6:16**, we can see how the Lord used Judas to become a traitor -

Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Let's now look at **John 12** - *Jesus Anointed at Bethany*. Here, we can see again the dark side of Judas. He had a bad heart and Lord used him to complete the task in the end.

Let's now look at the screen with two images.

(Image 1) We can see on the left a painting of Joseph being sold as a slave by his own brothers. This image can also resemble how Jesus was taken to death on the cross. Just as Jesus had people with bad heart surrounding him, Joseph also had his own brothers who wanted to get rid of him.

(Image 2) The image on the right is a painting of Ahithophel. He was counselor of King David and a man greatly renowned for his sagacity. During Absalom's revolt to kill David and Ahithophel supported Absalom. At the end, Ahithophel goes back home and hangs himself. Let's look at **2 Samuel 17:14** -

¹⁴ *Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.*

Just as we learn about Judas, Joseph's brothers, and Ahithophel - we can see how God uses these people of bad hearts to complete His tasks. My loving brothers and sisters, we do not know the future. I pray that the Lord will not select any of us to complete such tasks...in order to do this, we need to remove bad hearts.

Key Point #2 - God uses following people for good things (Verse 8)

Let's look at **Luke 22:8** -

Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

Here we see how Jesus is preparing for this last meal with His disciples. For this preparation, Jesus selects Peter and John. He selects them because they had good and soft hearts. Most importantly, they knew how to accept any commands from Jesus. If you look carefully at the scripture, Jesus asks Peter and John to look for a stranger and ask to lend them a space for free. In addition to Peter and John, we can see in today's scripture how the owner of the building had a good heart and Jesus used him to complete His task.

Let's now look at the screen with three images.

(Image 1) Two disciples and owner of donkey

In the New Testament (Mark 11:1-11) it is told that as Jesus approached the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples to a nearby village to fetch him a donkey. Upon their return, Jesus then rode the donkey into Jerusalem where he was met by cheering crowds. Here, Jesus again asks two disciples to request from a stranger to lend the donkey. We can see how the two disciples and the owner the donkey had good/soft hearts.

(Image 2) On the bottom left, we see Rahab. According to the Book of Joshua, a woman who lived in Jericho in the Promised Land and assisted the Israelites in capturing the city by hiding two men who had been sent to reconnoiter the city prior to their attack. In the New Testament, she is lauded both as an example of a saint who lived by faith, and as someone "considered righteous" for her works. Again, Jesus and our Lord uses the right people with faith and soft heart to complete the task.

(Image 3) On the right, we see a disciple of Jesus at Damascus mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible, which describes how he was sent by Jesus to restore the sight of "Saul, of Tarsus" (known later as Paul the Apostle) and provide him with additional instruction in the way of the Lord. Let's turn to **Acts 9:15** - *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."*

Our Lord and Jesus selects certain disciples, owner of the house, owner of the donkey, Rahab, and Ananias because of their good hearts. He uses these people to complete His tasks. During this particular week, we should ask ourselves...are we one of these people Jesus or our Father would select? Do we have good hearts like the people mentioned above?

Key Point #3 - God uses following people for the best things (Verse 7)

Let's look at **Luke 22:7** -

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

Apostle Paul and disciples such as Peter and John all had good hearts and were used to complete great tasks. However, the best person to complete the most important task was Jesus Christ - to save all of us from sins.

Let's look at **Luke 22:22** -

The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

Our Lord has selected Jesus to die on the cross to save all of us.

Let's look at the screen with two images.

(Image 1) Passover lamb

(Image 2) Blood on the door

The blood of this sacrifice sprinkled on the door-posts of the Israelites was to be a sign to God, when passing through the land to slay the first-born of the Egyptians that night, that he should pass by the houses of the Israelites. Jesus Christ represents the Passover lamb. He sacrificed Himself for us. He came back from death to be with all of us. I pray that the blood of Jesus Christ will be poured onto all of our families and this difficult time. Let's look at following scriptures -

John 14:6 - *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except*

through me

John 14:27 - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Jesus is the **only way** and **only one** to save us from the darkness we are currently facing. May He brings us peace to us, our families, to this nation, and around the world.

Grandmother got on the bus and realized there was no money in her wallet. She kept apologizing to the bus driver but the driver got annoyed and started to get angry. He told her to get out of the bus but the grandmother kept apologizing and would not leave the bus. Rest of the passengers started to get annoyed and started to yell at the grandmother to get off the bus or yell at the driver to start driving. Few minutes later, one high school student gave \$10 to the driver and told him to use it for the grandmother's fare and use the left over money for anyone in this situation. The bus became silent and the driver started to drive the bus again. The Lord used the young student to save the grandmother.

Let's be one of the people the Lord uses to do great things and walk towards heaven above. We do not know what our future holds...especially during these days. Based on 4/4 reports, there are 309,538 confirmed cases and 8,451 have died due to the virus.

- 1. Let's let go of a bad heart**
- 2. Let's have a good heart**
- 3. Let's follow Jesus' heart - the best heart**

Those who imitate the heart of the Lord will have peace in their hearts and will receive the power to overcome any difficulties the world will throw at us. Let us pray.