



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 106 After Dinner Talk pt1 "Who's Gonna be the Boss?"
By Pastor Jody May

Luke 22:22-30 ESV

²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Who Is the Greatest?

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸ "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Intro.

The auspiciousness of last week's moment, The Last Supper, the Celebration of the Bread; the Substitutionary Atonement - The Great Exchange and the Cup of the New Covenant; God bringing to life our dead heart (Jere. 31:31-33; Ez. 36:26), this glorious and great news now is **overshadowed but not suppressed by two different things:**

1st the greatest need of mankind was about to be met finally by the **most tragic moment in history**. The Cross is the only thing that can repair our separation from God, but in doing so it was creating the ***greatest injustice the world*** will ever see. Just stop for one moment and think about that. God was going to serve up justice by allowing an injustice to be done to His son, so that sinners could be released from their penalty of death.

Col. 2:14 ESV



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By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.

The Gospel of God is always about flipping things upside down. The sin of the world demanded justice and God would answer that cry for justice with allowing the world to do an injustice to His son. **Our recorded sins were nailed to that cross with Jesus; Horror is combined Glory making our Substitution...**

The 2nd way in which this beautiful moment of the Last Passover and First Communion was **overshadowed but not diminished** is, would you believe it, **by an argument between the boys over who is the greatest!?** That tells you that they had no clue what was really about to happen. They still could not buy the fact that Jesus was going to die! I guess His carefulness in not getting caught, in having other people involved in His secretive planning for that night, had them fooled into believing that Jesus did not seek out His own death. So, thinking they were in the clear of this danger they argue over who had more followers on Twitter? Who was the more popular disciple?

Situation - Jesus is facing the most challenging night of His life, where He will battle with His will, over whether to be led to the horrific death on the cross, AND He has to put up with the immature and dare say uncaring attitude of His disciples. He had just told them He would be betrayed, *"behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table"* ^(v.21) and worst yet it is one of the boys!

Somehow the argument over who it could be has escalated into well it can't be me, *look how everyone else likes me!* Ok, just so we are clear to the **oblivious short-sided vision** of our guys let's **recap**: At Communion Jesus is like – *'I will die for you'* and follows up with - *'the one who will sell me out to the murderers is here with us'*, then the disciples are like – *'thanks Jesus but we're busy having a discussion about something really important, who's more popular!'*

Jesus is experiencing a problem that God has always dealt with in human history.

People are oblivious to God's plans, they are unaware of God's commitment to glorify Himself, they are unaffected by God's actions to love them, and they are ignorant to their callousness towards God (why we need a new heart btw; Ezek.



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36:26). So, God must not only show His ability in manipulating, controlling, and orchestrating all of time to unite all things in Christ (Eph 1:10) but **He must work through unwilling and uncaring participants in His plans** (Gospel).

Not only did God bring Passover to an end, orchestrating the exact moment where Jesus would be slaughtered on the cross while at the same moment people would be having their lambs sacrificed at the temple at Passover, BUT He worked all of that through people unaware, unaffected, and nonunderstanding of the plan. The Gospel in all of that? **God doesn't need our help** to do His will; He doesn't need our strength to accomplish His desires, and He doesn't need our ok to save us, no **God works through our selfish desires to accomplish all He desires.**

Application - Over the last three weeks we have looked at God's Sovereignty on a big scale observing how He manipulated time to establish Communion before His death so it could be a strengthening practice by the church to experience until His return. **Now for the next three weeks we are looking at His Sovereignty on a smaller scale taking notice how He works through unwilling participants.** Jesus can work through any kind of trouble that showed up in His life in the form of human relationships and He can work through your life now even in your most unsightly ones. If He can make Salvation work through troubling, distressing, and uncooperative people, then please rest assured He can successfully save you no matter the quality of the people around you. Again, **you cannot stop God from accomplishing all He desires!**

Today we see a betrayer (Judas) and the disciples attempt to magnify their own plans and yet all the while God used their plans to glorify His son. Again, **the Gospel always flips the plans of man to bring His plans the most notice.** Today we will look at how Jesus handles all of this through looking at the **problem 1st** that His disciples presented, **2nd** the **principle** that Jesus teaches, and **3rd** the **promise** that is made.

1. The Problem.

²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.



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Who Is the Greatest?

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

Well, what was meant to be a peaceful and rememberable evening has now become a distraction. One guy wants to kill Him and the other eleven don't care that much about it. I know if I was in Jesus' shoes, if I had put that much planning into making this moment impactful, and **if I was met with this much resistance there would have been more than bread broken there that night!** Jesus had already warned them about allowing the sin of pride into their hearts in Luke 12:1 – "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." The Pharisees were blinded by their ambition and their desire to be praised and it seemed that in spite of Jesus' warning and companionship they were headed down the same road.

Has the desire to be popular really changed in the last 2,000 years? **NOPE....** With the invention of the internet and the explosiveness of social media now all people have the ability to build their identity not necessarily by what they do BUT just by how well they are known. That is why people associate with masses, crowds, and get caught up in group think mentality. If you can't be popular by yourself join the newest mass movement built around identifying what you like and don't like: BLM, Progressivism and it's political forms like communism, fascism, and socialism, feminism, social justice warriors (SJWs), Antifa, Me Too, LGBTQ, Proud Boys, Climate Defense, Defend Science, Anti-Islamphobia, and the list goes on.

The bad thing about being associated with a movement, **the NEW RELIGION of secular culture**, is people tend to take on the identity of the group, instead of building one's identity in who God says they are. In return one can lose individuality which clouds the fact that you were wonderfully made by God for a specific purpose, relationship, and calling. Dubious group identity and mentality tries to absorb people's energy and will to perform for the group's goals, don't worry God will still use them for His glory and if they are His He will still rescue them.



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This creates though an even bigger problem because popularity does not save you, only the cross can. Recently over the last twenty years teenage suicide rates have gone up according to a recent CDC study. Although male suicide rates are always higher than females the rate of suicide in females is growing faster than in males. Compare that with the use of social media, the increase in cyber bullying, and the drivenness to be known and to be liked and we have another pandemic developing.

The study was motivated by recent [CDC studies](#) demonstrating an [increase in suicide rates among young females](#), and the need to investigate whether the gender gap in suicide rates is narrowing.

The [study](#) was published last week in *JAMA Network Open*.

Suicide is the second most common cause of death in the U.S. among youths between the ages of 10-19, with suicide rates increasing nearly a third between 1999-2014. While statistics have typically indicated that suicide rates in males were higher than females across all age groups and demographics, [new research](#) from the CDC indicate that the [rate of suicide is increasing at a greater rate in females](#) compared to male youth.

The current study analyzed suicide rates in persons ages 10-19 who committed suicide from 1975-2016. 85,051 persons were identified (68,085 males; 16,966 females).

The researchers noted that after a downward trend in suicide rates for males and females in the early 1990's, suicide rates increased in both groups since 2007, with a significant increase seen specifically in younger females. This trend was noted throughout all parts of the U.S.¹

Then once people fall into the trap of placing their emotional contentment in their approval ratings among people, they will cause trouble for whoever doesn't agree with them on their world view.

Jesus had the group's treasurer plan His capture that led to His murder because He would not allow Judas to control the money like He wanted. If Jesus wouldn't be the king Judas wanted, if **He wouldn't let Judas identify himself as important based on Jesus' status, then He'll just sell Him to His enemies**. If Jesus wouldn't make up an org chart for the disciples and distribute that to the masses so they know who the top men were then the disciples were going to argue over who was the greatest, perhaps looking for social favors from the crowds like the Pharisees did.

The **problem** has always **been the same for centuries, people don't want Jesus for who He is they want Him for what they think He can do for them**. We don't

¹ Robert Glattler, "Suicide Rates Sharply Increase Among Young Girls, Study Finds" *Forbes*, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertglattler/2019/05/20/suicide-rates-sharply-increase-among-young-girls-study-finds/?sh=24d2776f6b20> Web, Jan 29, 2021.



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want a Savior we want an enabler, we don't want a friend that speaks truth to us we want a friend that agrees with our point of view, we don't want a King to defend us we want representative that does our bidding. Good news for us though is that Jesus takes the problem of disenfranchised people and still works through them to bring about the Kingdom's objectives and goals.

What we have to struggle with, by asking ourselves, is, "Are we done causing Jesus grief because He doesn't give us what we want, because he doesn't satiate our worldly desires, because He doesn't build our identity the way we want?" Family, we are going to be a lot better off if we accept His desires for us because **God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him**, (to quote one of my favorite pastors)² and you'll know you're there when **you stop worrying about who you are identifying with and worry more about identifying publicly the one that is worthy to be praised**. How do we do his then?

2. The Principle.

²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

First the explanation, Jesus being the wisest of men has picked up on a ploy that the Gentiles like to use. The elite Gentile rulers believe that while they work for the people they are entitled to benefit from their work. They become beneficiaries (from benefactors) of their own service. Evidence showed that Gentile rulers **avored doing work for those who could grow their 'checking accounts' and who fed their egos**. The Roman government was run on bribes and favors. In comparison, I don't like to always be negative about federal government, but you all know what is in the stimulus bills right? You know who got the shots first right? It is seen as a benefit to be a ruler of people in this world, why wouldn't we want to emulate that? Jesus has a simple answer for this problem: **"BUT NOT SO WITH YOU"** (v.26).

² https://www.amazon.com/Desiring-God-Revised-Meditations-Christian/dp/1601423101/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=desiring+god&qid=1612098079&sr=8-2



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Look, we could stop there and that should be enough for all of us (The Problem is now clarified more here). **Jesus calls them out, you want to be popular so you can get favors**, remember Jesus knows the hearts of men (Luke 6:8, 11:17, & 16:15). Here's the **simple answer** for our hearts, **that is not what I do, so it's not what you do.**

2 Cor. 8:9 ESV

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

We want to be like Jesus? Then give away that which you treasure on earth to know what it means to be rich in God's Kingdom. We are to act graciously, giving to people what they don't deserve, so that they may come to know the value of the Kingdom. You want to show people how good God's Kingdom is, serve them not for favors but because you do what Jesus does. (**What does He do?**)

Matthew 2:28 ESV

"even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Just so they would get the hint and be clear on what He was talking about we see in John 13:12-16 He demonstrates the value of God by doing something He should have never done, He washes the disciples feet.

John 13:12-16 ESV

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.



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Jesus' life was all about serving those, that did not deserve it (Rom. 5:8), that could not earn it, that did not know the value of it and if He could do that with no accolades, cheers or favors, then we can do the same thing and model Him and show the world what He is worth it! **People, our service is not about serving people because you get anything or because they deserve it, but because you love Jesus, and you want to show them He's worth it! In this way you identify Jesus as your reason for living, and in doing so you have established your identity rightly in the only person worthy of it, Jesus, as His disciple...**

Illustration: James Harrison – James wasn't trying to be identified as someone worthy of being served, or liked, but His identity was already in Christ and therefore he served without the need to be thanked or to be known for it. James served us well, and served his family well so we could live safer lives. James placed his trust in Jesus, chose to obey Jesus' command, "Not so with you" and now he's enjoying the benefits of obedience which is seen in the Promise from Christ.

3. The Promise.

²⁸ "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

There is so much good news in these verses for these boys if they only knew what Jesus was talking about! You chose to be associated with me when the world was against me, you are given True Responsibility in the Kingdom as I was given it by the Father, and I say you WILL eat, drink, and rule with me over our new kingdom, **but remember reverence is bestowed by sacrifice and service.**

The Kingdom is eternal, these are eternal placements being placed on the Apostles, they will be at Jesus table doing His bidding, for eternity. Now is that promise for us? Not as in the role of an Apostle, the fathers of the church, but for you and me there is a similar promise.

Luke 12:37 ESV



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37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Why would Jesus serve us as He did with those guys? For we are heirs, in the family line, to this same Kingdom, we actually are identified in the big group (**James 2:5** - *Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?*) This promise of blessing, provision, and eternal life Paul tells us it is ours as well:

Romans 8:17 ESV

And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Family, are you ready to stop seeking your identity in everything outside the Kingdom so that you can find the true joy found only in being associated with Christ?

Are you aware and do you accept that you will be rejected and persecuted as Christ was, but this too is the way to being glorified?

Are you willing to accept that your true identity comes through God's Word alone and not through this world?

Will you accept that Jesus loved you first, served you, called you out by name, for you were chosen to bear the honor of being His?

I want to leave you with a quote by the late R.C. Sproul, who we miss as well today. He too is experiencing this tremendous promise of Christ, an eternity of remaining in the Kingdom, to be in the presence of Christ forever, but R.C. knew the truth of life, he knew where to seek his identity from, and he knew whose identity to elevate, would you hear his words to us today.



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“There is plenty of glory to go around, but the message that has to be repeated, even after His death, is that unless we are prepared to participate in the humiliation of Christ we cannot participate in His exaltation.” R.C. Sproul³

I pray and hope that you are ready to participate in this Kingdom, may our Lord bless in our endeavors to bring glory to His name.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that has decreed the Kingdom will be brought in fully even by unwilling participants.

Go in the name of the Son, that serves us first as a demonstration for how we are to love one another.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that gives us the desire to place others first so that the world may see the blessing of the Kingdoms calling people to repentance.

³ R. C. Sproul, *A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke*, (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1999) p. 394.