



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 110 "The Darkest Hour"
By Pastor Jody May

Luke 22:47-53 ESV

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Review:

We have just seen the most intense example of spiritual warfare that has ever occurred in the history of our world. It wasn't the battle of good vs. evil but it was the battle of the will that raged in the soul of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. It was summed up in v.42:

Luke 22:42 ESV

⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

The biggest contributing factor to His victory here in the text today is the way in which He chose to fight His will, He **PRAYED that His Father's will would be done.** He prayed until He sweated great drops of blood, He prayed while He was strengthened by God's messenger, He prayed and encouraged his men to pray as well, and that is when the time came for the darkest of all hours came to pass:

⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. **But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."**

First let's address what is this hour?



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"The Hour" is used in the NT many times to refer to a time when HOPE will seem non-existent, when it seems that God has turned over one over to wrath.

"This Hour" is used in the other Gospels to talk about the Betrayal of Judas, one of the twelve, to turn Him over to the authorities, Jewish and Roman alike:

Matthew 26:45 ESV

Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Mark 14:25 ESV

And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

"The Hour" is also a term used to describe a time of **persecution for the disciples**, of when they will be confronted by dark and perilous times themselves.

John 16:2 ESV

They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Mark 13:11 ESV

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, we see the idea of **"The Hour"** that refers to a time when **God no longer extends Grace to the world**, but that the reality of Jesus' second coming is actually happening.

Luke 12:40 ESV

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Revelation 3:3 ESV



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Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what **hour** I will come against you.

So, what I want us to look at today, is this concept of what happens **when our hour comes upon us**, when we are faced with what appears to be overwhelming circumstances, when we can be tempted to believe that there is no Hope, or that we shouldn't even try to be different, or work at being a light in our world. **(2 Chronicles 32:31 tells us why the hour comes, it is for our testing)** What if today, we learn from the examples in our text, so that when our hour comes that by the victory that Jesus has already obtained, we too can stand on His shoulders, and face our hour of trial.

Intro:

I want to start off this morning with an example from history, what many historians believed was perhaps the darkest of hours in the last 2,000 years. To the forefront of this hour, I want to offer as an example a man that literally had been placed in the gap between Nazi Fascism/Hitler, and the rest of Europe, his name if you could not guess, was **Winston Churchill**, the Prime Minister of England during WWII. He gave a speech shortly after the miracle of Dunkirk, where over 338,000 British soldiers had been rescued due to the bravery of the British air force and her civilians that risked their own lives to ferry these soldiers across the English Channel. Churchill, even after this victory, was facing a daunting task. The members of his political party did not believe in him, Roosevelt had turned his back on him, and Hitler had made the demand of unconditional surrender, for the Nazis were coming for tribute to England whether they wanted it or not. It was in that Darkest of Hours that Churchill did the unpopular thing and went against those that wanted an unconditional surrender and he stoked the fire of defiance into a roaring flame in the hearts of the British people.

House of Commons June 4, 1940

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone. At any rate, that is what



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we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty's Government-every man of them. That is the will of Parliament and the nation. The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength. Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old. – Winston Churchill¹

Now before we make Winston Churchill our hero, because while he is an inspiration, Jesus is our hero and you will see that today, he is though a good example for us. Because the only way he stood in his darkest hour was that God had allowed Winston multiple chances to make decisions affecting the empire in which he failed.

He destroyed his credibility through his advocacy of the disastrous Gallipoli campaign in World War I, policies on Ireland, mismanagement of the British economy during the interwar period, stubborn defense of the Nazi-sympathizing Edward VIII when he was forced from the throne, and most of all by his vitriolic and (even by the standards of the era) astonishingly bigoted opposition to Mahatma Gandhi and Indian independence.²

¹ Winston Churchill, "We will Fight on the Beaches", *International Churchill Society*, <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1940-the-finest-hour/we-shall-fight-on-the-beaches/>, Web, 02/27/2021.

² Gautam Mukunda, Churchill The Failure: The Paradoxical Truth About The Best And Worst Leaders, *Forbes Magazine*, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/gautammukunda/2020/07/01/churchill-the-failure-the-paradoxical-truth-about-the-best-and-worst-leaders/?sh=320fae1b636e>, Web 02/28/2021.



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No, what had happened was God used Winston Churchill's failures to prepare him, to give him a spine, so that when the Nazis came a calling, he gave them the boot. Today, I know for many of us, there have been reprehensible moments in our past, our dark hours, when Hope did not seem present, when our sins had caught up with us, when we made decisions that have haunted us till this day. But today family, let us put those deeds away and our shame **for the Gospel says our failures of yesterday are not for condemnation but for liberation of God's people.** God will use our failures to prepare us for our darkest hours so we can stand when it counts.

Let's look at 3 different responses at these **Dark Hours** when they came calling and how did these different participants respond to them.

1. First Example, Judas – Succumbing to Worldly Desires (v. 47-48)

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called **Judas, one of the twelve**, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "**Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?**"

Judas, at this point had already made a choice. In John 13, now that Jesus had his time with the disciples, he dismissed Judas so he could inform the authorities where He was, or better, where He was going. Judas had already been enticed by Satan to turn Him over. The last straw had been broken; Jesus had entered into Jerusalem, but it looked like he was not going to take over as everyone was led to believe. Judas already disgusted with how Jesus spent the money, disgusted with how he had spent three years serving a man that was not going to give him what he wanted, left to turn his Master in.

In the Bible there is not a lot said about Judas. Oh, there has been a lot written about him in extrabiblical texts but there is nothing in the scripture to describe him as a rotten scoundrel while serving Jesus. That's what makes this such a horrific event that we dare not cheapen. Here's what we know about Judas, Jesus picked him, trained him, and then Judas served in God's Kingdom.



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He cast out demons and healed in Jesus' name, he traveled three years with Him, He was involved in the intimate details of Jesus' life, he took care of Jesus' earthly needs, he ran the books, he was trusted with the money so Jesus could do ministry. Judas was in the inner circle of Jesus' men and then at some point he fell, he succumbed to the desires of an earthly Kingdom. **He had started following Jesus for more of what he could get from Him instead of what he could do for him.** He became impatient with him, and with a sign of devotion he betrayed his master. Jesus was even taken a back, it seems, with how Judas did it.

Matthew 26:48-50 ESV

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

Inferiors kiss the back of the hand. Or if you're above a slave, you kiss the palm of the hand in the ancient world. Slaves kiss the foot. Kissing the hem of the garment expresses great reverence. But a kiss on the face, a kiss on the cheek, a full embrace is a sign of close intimacy and warm affection between equals. It is the mark not of gratitude; it is the mark not of homage; it is the mark of selfless love and affection. And so, the kiss is the ugliest act of treachery. And that's what Judas says I will do.³ – John MacArthur

Proverbs 27:6 ESV

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

(Friend - *ἑταῖρος* (*hetairos*). n. masc. companion, friend. **An association not necessarily involving affection or intimacy.**⁴)

Today you may be in danger, because Jesus has not worked your life out the way you wanted it to. You didn't get what you wanted in the time frame you wanted

³ John MacArthur, "A Traitorous Kiss for the Triumphant Savior", *Grace to You*, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-274/a-traitorous-kiss-for-the-triumphant-savior>, Web 02/26/2001.

⁴ Langford, J. (2014). *Friendship*. D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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it, and right now you too are ready to sell it all just to get your earthly desires right now.

Here's the danger: We are in a world right now that says if you will only accept what they preach, if you will only accept their truth, you can have happiness now. The world has gone as far as present a man, Rachel Lavine, who is sick mentally, as the assistant for our secretary of health and human services in the United States. He dodged questions about whether he would support transgender surgery for minors, which is mutilation of a persons' genital's, this past week in his confirmation hearings. Every search I did for that incident was pulled up by Google as a homophobic tirade by Rand Paul nothing was said about the fact that the question he asked was never answered.

Just to inform us all in 1973 the APA (American Psychiatric Association) was pressured to remove Homosexuality from the DSMII (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) because of outside political pressure not to call the behavior abnormal.⁵ To this point in time, researchers have never discovered a gay gene⁶, but they have compiled massive amounts of research that shows that tendencies toward homosexuality have a direct correlation to an infant's ability to associate with their paternal father figure⁷. **All that to say the world wants us to accept what they want to be the new normal and then they will leave you alone.**

Church we cannot sell our souls for this yet for if we do, we are in reality selling our children, and I am not ready to be a Molech worshipper yet, are you?

2. Example 2, the Mob and the Disciples – Succumbing to Group Think (v.49-50)

1st I want us to see who came out against Jesus, this mob...

5² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with **swords and clubs?"**

⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4695779/>

⁶ John & Paul Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World*, 2nd Edition, (Chicago, Crossway:2010), 362,372,376-77,380.

⁷ Alan Chambers, Julie Harren, Mike Ensley, Christine Sneeringer, Jack Harren, *Homosexuality 101: Where does it come from, Is change Possible, and How should Christians Respond?*, Exodus International, 2006.



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John 18:3 ESV

³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

So what do we have here:

Mark 14:43, Mark tells us there were Scribes there. John 18 tells us the Pharisees were there. John 18 also tells us a cohort was there, and rightly the translators of the New Testament add the word "Roman" because that's what a cohort was *speiran*, a Roman cohort. That's one-tenth of a legion. A Roman legion had 6,000 men. A cohort's one-tenth of a legion; that's 600 men. Now, maybe the number was diminished a little bit; we don't know that, but at Passover time, in Jerusalem, with a potential of all kinds of trouble, you would think that the Romans would be at full force. And so, there would be up to 600 men, surely, under a chiliarch which was the term used for the commander of a cohort. Everything is in place. Pilate has agreed, the commanders have agreed, the soldiers must obey. The chief priests are there; the scribes are there. The elders are there; the Pharisees are there. Everybody's there, the temple police – they all come. This could be close to a thousand people. A thousand people. And they're all there. They don't want any trouble from Jesus. They don't want any trouble.⁸

When the dark hour comes, when political pressure mounts up, when people in power are afraid of losing their power, when those in control don't want to seem like they can't keep control, **they use force to empower their will**. They will turn and **attack as well, those that are actually helping hold the fabric of society together**, they will make them **scapegoats**.

By now we all should be made aware that **dark hours are upon us from political powers**. Pastor James Coates, a fellow Reformed and Baptist pastor in Alberta Canada, was jailed last week for failing to bow to the municipal authorities. He refused to allow the government to tell the church how they need to worship

⁸ John MacArthur, "A Traitorous Kiss for the Triumphant Savior", *Grace to You*, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-274/a-traitorous-kiss-for-the-triumphant-savior>, Web 02/26/2001.



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which would keep the corporate body from gathering in its full capacity. He is facing up to 2 months in jail awaiting his trial. ⁹

By the way, why would we want to gather to worship as we want when the government says no? Well first, it is our constitutional right, and secondly and more importantly because when the body gathers it is strengthened by the multiple witnesses to the work of the Spirit in their lives and by numerous hearts that declare with one voice, God alone is worthy to be praised! We would do well to keep this in mind as the author of Hebrews said, **“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)** What is the day? That is code for the hour of the second coming. Let’s not fall prey to governmental *groupthink*, shall we? Even if it comes to their use of force.

2nd I want us to look at the response of the disciples...

⁴⁹ And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

John 18:4-6, 10 ESV

⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground... ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

So, Peter is one of now the *Eleven* and he is like gladiator, can we rise up now Lord and strike them. **Translation of this Dark Hour** for him, “Jesus, is it time to fight!?” Peter has been waiting for this day, and it’s not because Peter and the boys are Kung Fu experts but it’s that they travel with Jesus, they know what He

⁹ Ted Clarke, “Rally Planned for Saturday to Support Jailed Minister”, *The Citizen*, <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/rally-planned-for-saturday-to-support-jailed-minister-1.24287764>, Web 02/28/2021.



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can do, this was going to be easy, and this moment has to be what Jesus has been waiting for!

But see *groupthink* had gotten the best of the disciples as well. They had fallen into the belief that Jesus was there so they could have justice right at this point in their lives. That God through physical and political means was going to make them the boss and force everyone to pay tribute/reparations. They had failed to see that the path to freedom was the path of the cross. The issue is, they had liked the story line they built up so much in their head, that instead of praying and seeking God's will, as their master instructed, they went to sleep.

In our world today, the life of the American church, we have fallen asleep. We have gotten comfortable with the idea today **that God wants our comfort more than He wants obedient servants**. We have fallen prey to the Christian *groupthink* that in order to be better Christians we need to pay for our sins. Probably, somewhere underneath that is the thought, *if I prostrate myself low enough God will notice me and let me keep what I have already – our Dark Hour is will I lose my comfort and place in society?* That is the Christian group think right now, if we are not missional enough, if we don't see the problem of racism as we have been described to see it by liberal theologians, if we don't try to always work with our politicians, if we don't take on the mantra of social justice, if we don't vote the way some Christians believe we should, then we are second class Christians or worse we were never Christians at all.

The scripture says, **"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)**. And that means when Jesus paid for my sins, I am to walk away from them guilt free as if they had actually been paid for.

- Liberal theology says you have to add to the gospel in order for it to be effective, when the gospel says you make it ineffective when you add to it.
- The Christian *groupthink* of the day says get along with your political powers while the gospel and its' teachings puts us at odds with them.



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- Main line churches say disregard God's Word when it says that the office of pastor/elder is for straight men alone, but the Gospel says to free yourselves from the ideas of the world and cast those out that teach otherwise.

Sum Up: Family let us first be careful not to succumb to the offer of the world that, if we will but sell our souls, our beliefs, if we will but lessen them just a little it will lighten up its' aggression towards us. Secondly, let's understand that the Gospel has never called the church to be popular with the world, its' only when it is in stark contrast with it does it have any validity whatsoever. That brings us to our third and last example this morning.

3. Example 3 Jesus – Succumbing to God's Will (v.51-53)

⁵¹ But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

John 18:8-9,11 ESV

⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."

⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ... ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Jesus in this **moment of darkness, THE DARHEST MOMENT of all TIME**, instead of succumbing to the temptations of the Devil, for He was offered the world compared to the 20 pieces of Silver that Judas received. Instead of succumbing to the temptation of gaining all political power from the devil for control, He instead gave control over to God. Instead of succumbing to the *groupthink* rampant in His disciples, Jerusalem, and in all of Israel, He adheres only to the will of the One True God. Instead of raising a sword to fight evil He allows evil to raise their hands against Him and even touch Him falsely with their lips.



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In order to erase once and for all the Kingdom of Darkness and bring His people into the light of His Salvation **He accepts the moment of darkness** understanding it was set up by the Father; He trusts in the plan, and because of His faithfulness **we are saved**.... “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” (**John 10:18 ESV**)

Now as His disciples let us walk away with this enlightenment not with just renewed affections but with new commitments and goals:

1st let us be in prayer more fervently as Jesus has explained, that we forgo temptation, that is to pray against it, so that we too can stand in our dark days.

2nd let us commit to fight against the feelings of apathy and hopelessness when we see the news and headlines and start believing they are creating opportunities for God to be Glorified.

3rd let us see that even in the darkest of hours all those life-changing and challenging decisions all lead to the one hour we so desperately desire, **the hour of His return.**

For all our dark hours are to conform us into His image and thank you Jesus that brings us all one step closer to being with you.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that was faithful to His Son and us providing a way to save His people and Glorify Himself.

Go in the name of the Son, that did not succumb to any temptation but by His obedience to the Father made the path of Salvation possible for us.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that strengthens us just as He did Jesus, to stand in our dark times and to call those that are looking for Hope in this world.