

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## LUKE 22:1-71

Luke 20-21 begins Jesus' final week...

**On Sunday**, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem down the Mount of Olives while the masses hailed Him their Messiah... Then He entered the Temple, angrily expelling the crooked priests and moneychangers...

**On Monday**, He was questioned in the Temple by the chief priests and Jewish elders. Yet Jesus avoided their tricks and traps with great wisdom from above...

**On Tuesday** Jesus and His disciples rested. It was the calm before the storm... **On Wednesday**, the Jewish leaders plotted with Judas to betray Jesus...

Finally, **on Thursday** at sundown, the beginning of the day according to the Jewish clock, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples - then prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane - and was then arrested.

By morning light, Jesus had been tried, scourged, and was on His way to execution. There's never been, before or since, a week of such monumental events!

When we reach Chapter 22, it's already **Wednesday**.

The disciples are preparing for the Passover Seder they'll eat that night. **"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover."** At the time of Jesus, Passover was already an ancient custom.

It began 1500 years prior to Jesus on the night of Israel's exodus from Egypt. **And today, 2000 years after Jesus, Jews**

still keep Passover... But on that night, Jesus gave the ancient ritual a new meaning. *Afterward His disciples never looked at Passover the same way.*

“And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.”

Jerusalem was *packed with people* at *Passover*. Its normal population was a couple hundred thousand, but at Passover season, the city swelled to two million.

And if these masses caught wind of the chief priests’ plot to kill Jesus, it would set off a riot. Thus, the Jewish leaders kept looking for an opening to do their diabolical deed. They found one in an unusual source.

“Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.” Satan was at work in a man named “*Judas*” - one of Jesus’ own disciples.

“So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.”

We don’t really know what was in the mind of Judas when he betrayed Jesus, but my hunch is that he became disenchanted. He expected Messiah to have political aspirations, *but Jesus had none*. He was angry with Jesus for not meeting up to his own expectations.

And this is the reason whenever Jesus is betrayed. We disobey Him whenever *His will* doesn’t match up with *our plans*. We *bristle up*, rather than *bow down*.

This is what Judas did. Perhaps He was trying to force Jesus to be more political or aggressive. *Did he think his actions would cause Jesus to defend Himself?*

At some point, a clandestine dialogue began between Judas and the Jews. They offered him money. We learn elsewhere, thirty pieces of silver. You'd think his motive wouldn't be just money, but he took the coins.

And "he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude."

With an informant on the inside, the Jews now knew Jesus' schedule and movements, and they'd be able to catch Him while He was away from the crowds.

Verse 7, "Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed." On this day, every Jewish family chose a lamb for their Passover meal.

"And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."

At this point, Jesus must've known that Judas was a *satanic snitch*. For He sends Peter and John on an elaborate adventure. It's almost like a game of clue where they discover the location of the meal. If Jesus had just told them, Judas could've eavesdropped, and Jesus' arrest might've taken place in the upper room.

"So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters." Understand, in the first century, a man toting a jar of water on his head wouldn't be

hard to spot. At the time, this was a task usually done by women.

Jesus continues, “Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.” Church tradition says this house belonged to the family of John Mark - a friend of Peter - who later wrote the second Gospel.

This house was not only the site of the Passover meal, but it played a strategic role for weeks to come.

It was the disciples’ hideout after the crucifixion... It was where the risen Christ revealed Himself... Then on the Feast of Pentecost, the upper room was transformed - from a *hideout* to a *headquarters*.

In the room where He said good-bye, Jesus returned to His disciples in the form of **another Comforter**, the Holy Spirit. In this room, the *Spirit took over where Jesus left off!* **There’s never been a more vital house!**

Verse 13, “**So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.**”

*And what was included in those preparations?* They purchased a lamb, wine, bitter herbs, and cinnamon paste - the symbols used in the Seder to remind the Jews of their bondage, and subsequent freedom.

“**When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.**” The Passover is a family time, and Jesus’ twelve followers had been His family.

“Then He said to them, “With *fervent* desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

As a law-abiding Jew, Jesus had celebrated the Passover Seder for each of His 30-plus years on earth, but this would be His last observance.

The Passover was a picture of our salvation, and there was work still to do! Not eating Passover until our salvation is complete, is like putting the champagne on ice. Jesus holds off declaring victory until the work has been finished. The cross is before Him now, and He won't pop the cork until He's with us in His kingdom!

“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide *it* among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” The Jews actually drink four cups during a Passover Seder. This may've been the first cup, the Cup of Dedication. Three cups followed...

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” This was a radical reinterpretation. For 1500 years prior, the Passover matzoh represented the Hebrews' faith and haste. They exited Egypt before the bread could rise.

But now, Jesus gives this ancient ritual a brand new meaning. “This is My body which is given for you...”

When your teeth bite and chew the communion wafer think of the cat-o-nine-tails that bit into Jesus' back, and the torturers who chewed up His flesh.

Actually, to look at a sheet of Passover matzoh is to see Jesus. It's the only portrait God gave us of Him.

He was unleavened or without sin. The bumps are His bruises. The holes are the pierced marks in His hands, feet, brow. The stripes speak of His scourging.

In the Seder meal, the lamb is followed by a piece of unleavened bread called the "Afikomen." It's broken, wrapped in linen hidden, then discovered - just like the body of Jesus. And the "Afikomen" was the dessert!

For Jesus not only nourishes us, but He delights.

In a single serving of Jesus, you get moral fiber, spiritual vitamins, protein boldness, *and* He satisfies our sweet tooth! With a diet and nutrition, at times we feel like everything that's healthy tastes like cardboard. But with Jesus, you don't have to choose between *what's good for you* and *what tastes good*. He's both!

"Likewise He also *took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."*

This was the third cup of the Seder - the cup of Redemption. It symbolized the blood of the Passover lamb - the blood the Hebrews in Egypt had spread on the doorposts and thresholds of their house.

*Remember how it worked...* If the blood was applied, the plague of death passed-over that house. Salvation that night



had nothing to do with the moral status of the people in the house. It all boiled down to the blood.

This is how our salvation works. Put your faith in Jesus. Ask His Spirit to apply His blood to your heart. It's all in the blood. As the old hymn puts it, *What can wash away our sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Commentator, J Vernon McGee makes an interesting observation at this point. "The Lord used two of the most frail elements in the world as symbols of His body and blood. Bread and wine - both will spoil in a few days. When He raised a monument, it was not made of brass or marble, but of two frail elements that perish."

God's most significant creations consist of the most simple, and common, and ordinary ingredients. God uses the foolish things to confound the wise.

In fact, author Bruce Larson goes as far as to put it this way, "We have romanticized the bread and wine as we have the cross. I am convinced that if Jesus came today He might even use coffee and doughnuts."

Jesus took everyday stuff and gave it profound, spiritual implications. And this is what He does to all of life when we surrender to Him. Suddenly work, leisure, friends, family, even encounters with strangers take on an eternal significance. Jesus sanctifies the mundane and infuses meaning into everything we do in this life.

Then Jesus said, verse 21, "But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by

whom He is betrayed!" Jesus' betrayal was pre-ordained and foretold, but God's providence over the act didn't absolve the hand that did the deed.

"Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing."

And this amazes me! From the beginning, Jesus knew Judas was a bad apple, yet He never tipped His hand. If I'd been Jesus, I would've assigned Judas the dirty work. "*Judas, you do the dishes tonight. Judas, latrine duty.*" There, would've been no question as to who was my betrayer. But the disciples had no idea!

In fact, Jesus may've treated Judas better than the others. He was Jesus' treasurer - a trusted position. He sat in the honored seat at the Last Supper. To the very end, Jesus gave Judas every opportunity to repent.

"Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest."

The other Gospels tell us in response to this dispute Jesus gave His men the quintessential lesson on servanthood. Also "*after supper*" the Master did the job of the lowliest servant and washed His disciples' feet.

"And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' In this world *might makes right* - folks seek power over others.

Yet Jesus says, "*But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.*"



In God's kingdom, the greatest is not the person with the most servants but who serves the most people...

He is *as the younger*. In Oriental culture, the firstborn had tremendous advantages making him the greater or more privileged sibling. But in God's Kingdom, it's the opposite. The humble is the greatest. God's Kingdom is not about *manipulating others*, but *investing in them*.

Verse 27, "For who *is greater*, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.*"

To this point in history, the world had been a pyramid. The idea was for a person to step on as many people as necessary to climb to the top. But Jesus flipped the pyramid. In His kingdom, the goal is not to step on or climb over people but to stoop and serve.

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." In this life, the followers of Jesus serve. In the life to come, we'll rule.

And the original disciples have a special reward. Jesus says they'll reign over the twelve tribes of Israel.

This must've shocked them. "*Rule over their nation!*" How encouraging... but they needed encouragement for what comes next had to have scared them spit-less!

Verse 31, “And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.” Warren Wiersbe points out in the Greek text the word “*you*” is plural. Satan wasn't just after Peter, but all twelve disciples.

He wanted to sift them all - run them through a sieve. Chew them up and spit them out. Destroy their faith.

And Peter would fail, but his faith wouldn't. For Jesus prayed for him. *And Jesus is praying for you!* Hebrews 7:25 tells us Jesus “always lives to make intercession for us.” I love how Jesus encourages Peter in verse 32. He doesn't say, “if you return,” but “*when you have returned.*” Peter's repentance is not “if,” but “when.”

“But (Peter) said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” Peter was overconfident. Self-confidence was his problem.

“Then (Jesus) said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.” Peter will prove chicken before the rooster crows! And I've heard that rooster, or one like it.

Once, Kathy and I were walking on top of the walls of Jerusalem. We were looking over the city when we heard a rooster crow in the distance. **(Play-AUDIO)** It was an eerie reminder of *Pete's failure* and *our vulnerability*.

“And (Jesus) said to them, “When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?” So they said, “Nothing.” Then He said to them, “But now, he who has

a money bag, let him take *it*, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.”

Jesus is preparing His men for some tough sledding ahead.

The environment for Jesus’ disciples had once been charitable but is now turning hostile. There was a time for God’s miraculous provision, but there’s also a time for self-preservation - and Jesus says that time is now.

On Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. People gave Him a royal welcome. Now on Thursday, He’ll leave the city with a cross on His back.

His men had also received a warm reception, but the tide was turning... “Sell your shirt and buy a sword” is a figurative way to say, “Buck up. Toughen up. A rough ride is ahead...” And the same seems to be occurring today. We’re no longer living in a society friendly to Christianity. It’s getting more costly to follow Jesus...

Verse 37, “For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: (And Jesus quotes Isaiah 53:12) ‘*And He was numbered with the transgressors.*’ This was a prediction of the Messiah’s sufferings on the cross. And Jesus knew it, for He says, “For the things concerning Me have an end.”

“So they said, “Lord, look, here *are* two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.” They’d misunderstood.

When Jesus told them to buy a sword, He was sounding a warning. A need for self-defense, He wasn’t thinking of stockpiling an arsenal for a political uprising. *Perhaps this is what Peter was thinking later when he pulled a sword on the man who came to arrest Jesus?*

But from the beginning, Jesus taught His ministry wasn't about force. *God's kingdom advances not by slaying men, but by swaying men.* The sword we fight with today is the sword of the Spirit - the Word of God.

Verse 39, "Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him." The other Gospels further identify this place as the Garden of Gethsemane or "the oil press."

Even today, you can visit this garden and see the 2000-year-old olives trees. It boggles the brain to realize Jesus may've prayed under one of these trees.

"When (Jesus) came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Some commentators I've read believe Jesus wanted to avoid the cross. I don't believe that for an instant. He was born to die. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He embraced that destiny and discussed it with His disciples... *But talking and enduring are two different matters.* I think the rejection Jesus experienced from the men He was dying to save - even the rejection He suffered from His own Father - grieved His very soul.

The cup Jesus wanted to have removed was not the cross but His own feelings of rejection. And I believe God removed that cup and replaced it with His peace...

It's interesting, Genesis 3 explains that sin and the rule of Satan began in a Garden called Eden... In Revelation 22, we learn that when Jesus returns and puts an end to sin and Satan's revolt, He'll remake this earth into another beautiful garden... It's interesting, the story of mankind both begins and ends in a garden.

But sandwiched in between is another garden called Gethsemane. And in this garden, the course of human history turned. Here the battle was fought that wrestled the world from Satan and delivered it back to God.

Gethsemane was the garden of decision. It was here that Jesus enduring His own pressing, pain, fears, and hurts - and readied Himself for the cross the next day.

God took away His cup of pain - the pain of rejection and filled it with perfect peace. I believe the spiritual battle that delivered us from darkness to light wasn't won on the cross, but the night before in Gethsemane. What occurred the next day was decided in the garden.

Verse 43, "Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Recall Luke is a physician. His Gospel highlights the humanity of Jesus. And here Dr. Luke details the agony He endured. His sweat was like "*great drops of blood.*"

This raises two possibilities...

First, Luke is careful to use the word “like.” Jesus wasn’t literally sweating blood, but His perspiration had the thickness and consistency of human blood.

Or a second possibility, there is a malady known as “hematidrosis.” Intense emotional stress causes tiny blood vessels in the sweat glands to rupture and expel blood with sweat. This could've been what happened.

It’s interesting, because of the first man’s sin in the Garden of Eden, all men have been sentenced to work by the sweat of their brow. In His redemption, Jesus paid for sin’s sweat with the sweat from His own brow.

Whatever it was that excreted from the pores of Jesus’ flesh stretched Him to His limits. No one has ever experienced the strain and stress Jesus endured.

“When (Jesus) rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.”

Jesus was saving the world, and His disciples were sawing logs. “Then He said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.”

They should’ve been praying with Him. Jesus wasn’t the only person about to face severe challenges...

“And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” I’ve heard a kiss defined as, “A contraction of the lips due to an enlargement of the heart.” But that's not always the case.



A kiss can be faked. *Here's the ultimate example.* Today, we call it “a Judas kiss.” It’s become proverbial.

Which raises the question, “*Why a kiss?*”

Judas could have pointed to Jesus or touched His arm, *but a kiss?* I believe this was Satan’s attempt to pour more pain into His cup. Imagine, being betrayed by your closest disciple with a show of affection and loyalty - *of all things.* Satan was pouring salt in the wound. He was trying to discourage Jesus – cause Him to abort His mission. *Why die for these people?*

“When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” And one of them (didn’t even ask. He) struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.” One sword-swinging disciple tried to split his head in two, and give the guy a permanent part. He missed and ended up clipping off an ear. John 18:10 identifies the victim as “Malchus” - and the slasher as “Peter.”

Verse 51, “But Jesus answered and said, “Permit even this.” And He touched his ear and healed him.”

Notice, **Jesus’ last miracle is to heal a wound inflicted by one of His own servants.** And sadly, that's still a miracle Jesus has had to work all too often.

Remember, we’re not called to *slay*, but to *sway*...

“Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness.” Having arrested Him,

they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance." You're always in trouble when you follow Jesus "*at a distance.*" Peter didn't want to appear too close. He's compromising - he's shying away from his loyalty. Disaster is on the horizon...

"Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." Big, bad, braggadocios Peter denies Jesus in front of a campfire girl, no less.

Notice the all too common progression here...

First, Peter follows Jesus at a distance. He devalues any closeness to Him... Second, he warms himself by the enemies' fire. He's now taking comfort in the wrong things and with the wrong crowd. This is a huge betrayal... Which leads to His threefold denial...

The key is not to make the first mistake!

Follow hard after Jesus. Don't let any distance grow between you and Him. When Jesus warms your heart, you won't be tempted by the warmth of this world.

"And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." Apparently, folks from the north, Galilee, had a

distinctive accent. “But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.” (**Cock-a-doodle-do - AUDIO**). It wasn't yet daybreak, but the crow of a rooster signaled Peter's darkness.

And I wonder if Jesus isn't trying to communicate grace with this rooster's crow? *Was the harbinger of morning a message to Peter?* Is Jesus saying, “*A new day is in store for you, Pete. I'm not done with you yet.*”

Yet, in Peter's ears, the crow of the rooster marked a crushing defeat. The only thing that could've been worse is what happens next... Verse 61, “**And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.**” What a moment that must've been. *What all was said in that one look?*

“Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So Peter went out and wept bitterly.” And this could've been the end of Peter. His guilt and failure were so heavy. It could've crushed him.

But Jesus had prayed for him. Peter failed, but not his faith. He will return and strengthen his brothers.

Verse 63, “Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, “Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?”

It was common for Roman soldiers to play games that victimized their prisoners - especially those with a death

sentence. In Jerusalem, at the Lithostrata, or the Pavement, the place where Jesus was tried before Pilate, engraved in the stones is a game called "The King's Game." The beating mentioned here may've been part of that game. It's also called, "Hot Hand."

Each soldier in the group, except one, balled up a fist and cold-cocked Jesus. His eyes were covered so He couldn't brace for the blows. Then they ripped off His blindfold, and He had to guess which attacker didn't hit Him. This was repeated over and over. It was brutal.

Author Phillip Yancey recounts an incident from the days in Germany prior to World War II. Nazi storm troopers had arrested an elderly Jewish rabbi and drug him to the police station. In the corner of the room, several Nazis were beating another Jew to death.

The soldiers decided to have some fun with the old rabbi. They stripped him naked and told him to preach the sermon he'd prepared for his next Sabbath service.

He asked for his yarmulke and with a shaky voice explained what it meant to walk humbly with God. As he spoke, the soldiers jabbed, poked, and prodded him.

Yancey concludes his story, "When I read the Gospel accounts of the imprisonment, torture, and execution of Jesus, I think of that naked rabbi standing humiliated in a police station." When we think of the atrocities Jesus suffered in more modern terms, they feel very real.

Verse 65 is ominous. “And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.” There were indignities Luke couldn’t even bring himself to mention.

Isaiah 50:6 gives us a detail of His torture even the Gospels don’t mention. “I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” The bloodthirsty Romans ripped Jesus’ beard out of His facial follicles. *Imagine His face - puffy and swollen, bloodied and bruised.* Jesus looked like a prize fighter who’d gone ten rounds in a bloody brawl.

When Isaiah 53 describes the Messiah’s sufferings, it says, “His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” The literal Hebrew reads, “His appearance was not human, and His form not like that of the children of men.”

Isaiah is saying the face of Jesus was so badly beaten He no longer resembled a human. His face was a bloody pulp. Jesus looked as if He’d been thrown through the windshield of an automobile in a terrible accident, or His body mangled in an airplane crash. If there’d been a funeral it would’ve been a closed casket.

Verse 66, “As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council...” It was against Jewish Law to condemn a man to death at night, so they waited until daybreak to convene the seventy-one Jews who sat on their Supreme Court or “Sanhedrin.”

They assembled them, “saying (to Jesus) “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by

no means believe. And if I also ask *you*, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go.” Jesus knew this was a kangaroo court - that the trial was rigged.

They were after *His blood*, not *the truth*.

Yet despite their unfairness, Jesus answers their question, “*If You are the Christ, tell us.*” In verse 69 He says, “*Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.*” Jesus quotes Scripture.

He draws on Messianic images from Daniel 7:13 and Psalm 110:1. And Jesus warns the Jews to be careful how they judge Him, since one day He'll judge them.

“Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?”

Remember, in the Jewish mindset, the son of a bird is a bird, the son of a man is man, thus the Son of God is God. To say you're the Son of God is a claim to deity.

“So He said to them, “*You rightly say that I am.*” And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”

Often liberals and cultists say Jesus never claimed to be God. That's absurd! That claim is the very reason He was crucified. Jesus was God, and because the Jews didn't want to bow down to Him, they killed Him.

*We have followed Jesus this morning...*

From **the Upper Room**, where we gleaned new meaning into Passover and heard a new definition of greatness... to **the Garden of Gethsemane** where He battled in prayer...



was betrayed and arrested... and to **the Sanhedrin** where Jesus was beaten and tried.

And throughout, Jesus has dealt with Peter...

He rebuked Peter's self-confidence and prayed that his faith wouldn't fail... When Peter pulled His sword and acted contrary to Jesus' intentions, the Lord readjusted Peter's attitude and reattached a man's ear.

Then Jesus watched as Peter followed at a distance, warmed himself by the enemy's fire, and ultimately denied Him. ***Has Jesus seen you do the same?***

This morning, you can say you're sorry, stop finding warmth and comfort at the wrong fires, and close down the distance by renewing your desire to follow Jesus.