

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Luke 22:14-30

International Bible Lessons
Sunday, March 24, 2013
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, March 24, 2013**, is from **Luke 22:14-30**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* (formerly, *Bible Lesson Forum*) below. **Study Hints for Thinking Further** discuss the five questions below to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion; these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website. For additional **International Bible Lesson Commentaries**, see the complete and comprehensive **International Bible Lessons Commentary Index**. The weekly **International Bible Lesson** is posted each Saturday before the lesson is scheduled to be taught at **<http://InternationalBibleLessons.org>** and in **The Oklahoman** newspaper.

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Luke 22:14-30

(Luke 22:14) When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.

Jesus' public ministry on earth lasted about three years. In fulfillment of the Jewish law, Jesus probably celebrated Passover with His disciples three times (at a minimum of two times, depending on the exact time He called His disciples to follow Him). They may have celebrated Passover in Jerusalem before, but certainly His last Passover was in Jerusalem following His Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem as He proclaimed himself the Messiah (the King of the Jews) by the way He entered and the words He used to describe His spectacular entrance. Because Jesus refused to come as the victorious military Messiah that the Jews expected, He was convicted of blasphemy (based on false testimony) by the religious leaders and crucified by the Romans.

(Luke 22:15) He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

Jesus eagerly desired to eat this last Passover with His disciples, because it marked the end of their formal training with Him and the beginning of His suffering and death for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus had looked forward to this time, for He was about to finish the redeeming work He came to do on Earth, knowing that the Passover meal marked the beginning of the new covenant in his blood, which He shed as He died on the cross. Jesus used this last Passover meal to teach His disciples that He had come to die and rise

again, and they were not to expect Him to try to overthrow the Roman government and become their visible King (which was the popular opinion of almost everyone at the time). Later, some of His disciples would be called apostles, and they would need to teach why Jesus had not failed, but had actually achieved what He came to do when He died so God could justly forgive repentant sinners who believed in Jesus. Jesus eagerly desired to eat this meal and teach new truths to those who would build His church based on the truths He taught.

(Luke 22:16) for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus often spoke of a banquet in heaven. He also told a parable about a King who invited many to come to His feast and of how this King dealt with those who would not come to the feast when they were invited. Someday, all of the Bible's predictions and prophecies will be fulfilled. Someday, all that can and must be done on earth to fulfill prophecy before Jesus Christ comes again will be done. When Christ returns, He will feast with all of His followers. Now, Jesus works in the Kingdom of God from heaven, and He rules over all the earth. He said that one of His primary responsibilities is to pray for us, His brothers and sisters, because His Father is the Father of all who trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

(Luke 22:17) Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;

Jesus instituted or established in His church the celebration of communion during His Last Supper (His last Passover feast) with His disciples. He took the first cup of the Passover meal and gave thanks, as would have been done during every Passover celebration. Then, He gave the Passover meal a new interpretation because of the New Covenant that God the Father was making with His people through the gift of His Son and the shedding of His sacrificial blood on the cross. This New Covenant is explained throughout the New Testament, and it is a covenant that includes both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) as God’s children.

(Luke 22:18) for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

A spiritual body does not need physical wine. A glorified and resurrected human body; such as Jesus received when He rose from the dead can eat or drink (Jesus ate some fish after His resurrection, but drank no wine). Jesus asked for some fish to eat after He rose from the dead in order to prove He was not a ghost, but He drank nothing. After His resurrection, Jesus helped some of His disciples catch fish, and He cooked a meal for them, but He drank nothing. The

kingdom of God will fully come when Jesus returns; then, we will see Him drink of the fruit of the vine once again. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17).

(Luke 22:19) Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Prior to Jesus’ body being broken by lashing, crucifixion, and piercing with a spear, He identified the giving of His body in death with the bread He broke and gave to His disciples to eat at their last Passover meal together. He wanted them to always eat in remembrance of Him (not only at communion); but with these words of His, He created a special time of celebration for His Church when His people would especially eat and drink and remember His sacrificial death for the forgiveness of their sins; therefore, during communion, believers can confess their sins, repent of their sins, reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, receive the assurance of the forgiveness of sins, and Jesus’ help in overcoming the practice of sin.

(Luke 22:20) And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is

poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

After they ate the bread following the Passover tradition, Jesus took another cup after supper, with which He officially inaugurated the New Covenant in His blood. The first covenant involved Moses and the 10 Commandments, the continual shedding of the blood of animals that Aaron and later priests offered in sacrifice, and the Day of Atonement. To confirm the New Covenant, Jesus freely offered His own death, the breaking of His body and the shedding of His blood, to establish the New Covenant, which believers in Him reaffirm every time they remember Him during the communion celebration. Jesus ended all animal sacrifices when He offered himself as the final sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

(Luke 22:21) But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.

Jesus was not “caught by surprise” when one of His disciples betrayed Him. Judas, who betrayed Jesus, attended this last Passover meal with Jesus and the other disciples. Rather than accept the promise of the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus and Jesus’ coming kingdom according to God’s perfect timing and way, Judas rejected Jesus and became a willing instrument of the religious leaders and Satan, who inspired him to lead the religious leaders and guards

in the arrest of Jesus and His eventual crucifixion and death.

(Luke 22:22) For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”

“The Son of Man” was the title that Jesus preferred to use for himself, and He came to die and shed His blood on a cross. The Bible foretold that one of the Messiah’s followers would betray Him. These sacrificial events were determined by God (the Father and the Son). At the same time, within the group of disciples, Judas freely chose to betray Jesus. Judas chose to warp his moral character as a thief. Judas never repented from being a thief (he stole from the common purse), and he never really accepted the teachings of Jesus. When he saw his opportunity to enrich himself even more, because of his greed and love of money, he took the opportunity as a thief who would steal from his best friend. In words that almost perfectly describe Judas and many others, the Apostle Paul wrote, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains” (1 Timothy 6:10).

(Luke 22:23) Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

When Luke began his gospel, he said that he was compiling and editing from other sources. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Luke did not just put into his gospel everything in every source he used; so, we need to read all of the gospels for a more complete account of Jesus' Last Supper. The disciples learned in advance that Judas would betray Jesus; they saw Jesus send Judas out from the feast; but, they did not understand exactly what Judas was going to do until after he had done his evil deeds. Then, they knew that Jesus had accurately foretold who would betray Him, and that He would die and rise again.

(Luke 22:24) A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

With this dispute, Luke shows that at the time of the Last Supper the disciples did not understand all that Jesus was trying to teach them; Jesus and the Holy Spirit would help them understand after Jesus rose from the dead. The disciples of Jesus manifested a self-centered concern and lack of complete understanding regarding Jesus and His mission and teachings. They understood after His resurrection and their reception of the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to them, both in the upper room and on the Day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, He came as the power from on high. Even as He spoke of His coming death, they could not believe it, and they continued to think of their

greatness more than of His greatness. Later, they would think little of themselves and only of His greatness, which they wanted everyone to learn about and accept.

(Luke 22:25) But he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors.

Jesus told them not to be concerned about comparing themselves with each other to determine who was greater. Jesus asked them to think about the Gentiles (non-Jewish) politicians they knew, their Roman rulers. At that time, the only Jewish leaders were religious leaders, who were indeed political and worked with King Herod and the Romans. Politicians and leaders of this world concern themselves with how much honor they receive and how much power they have and often how much money they can acquire and spend, but they lie and cheat and steal and tell people that their concern is how to meet the needs of the people under their authority or power. They call themselves “benefactors,” when primarily they strive to benefit themselves and steal from those they should be committed to serving. Jesus did not want any of His followers to become such as these.

(Luke 22:26) But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves.

Sometimes the youngest child is compelled to serve their older brothers and sisters. Jesus, the Son of God, the Father's oldest and only begotten Son, came to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth, beginning with His 12 disciples. To accomplish His goal, Jesus served His disciples as their youngest brother. Their attitude, their intention as leaders in the kingdom of God, needed to be choosing to do what was in the best interests of God's kingdom according to the teachings of Jesus. To do what was best for those God chose them to serve and one another, they were to look for opportunities to help others, rather than try to find ways to manipulate others to serve themselves or make themselves greater than others.

(Luke 22:27) For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

In the course of this world, the person who sits at the head table at a banquet is greater than those who sit below them on less important tables. The least important person may appear to be the waiter at the tables; however, the waiter is the most important person, because without his or her serving the people at the banquet, they would not eat. Jesus came to wait on tables and serve food to the hungry: this should be the way of His true disciples. God the Father still serves everyone, because without God the Father no one would exist. The Father serves us every moment,

because His power keeps us in existence and meets our needs.

(Luke 22:28) “You are those who have stood by me in my trials;

Jesus conferred this high compliment on His disciples because of their faithfulness to Him in the most difficult of times. He made this compliment knowing that Peter would deny Him and all of them except John would go into hiding after He was nailed to His cross. Yet, after His resurrection, they did stand with Him, even when they faced threats and death, in order to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and save all those who would believe in Him.

(Luke 22:29) and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom,

Though they had wanted to be greater than others, so others would serve them as rulers over others, Jesus pointed them towards serving others. Still, He promised them a place of power and greatness; however, they were to use that place of power and responsibility to help and serve others. Jesus' heavenly Father had conferred on Him a kingdom, the Kingdom of God, where He would rule as King of kings overall in the service of others. As Lord of lords, Jesus had the power and responsibility to confer a kingdom on His disciples under His authority, and they would follow His example as one who serves

(which we see them doing in the Book of Acts and through the letters in the New Testament).

(Luke 22:30) so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Someday, they would eat and drink at His table in His kingdom, while He sat upon the throne at the right hand of God the Father. They would have the responsibility of judging the 12 tribes of Israel, much as the 12 tribes were ruled by judges before Saul became their first King. Yet, they would judge as one with a heart committed to serving others. After they learned to follow His example as a servant of those they ruled, King Jesus in the Kingdom of God would appoint them to places of greatness. We will not understand all that Jesus Christ taught about the future until He comes again and unfolds His plans in greater detail.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What does your participation in communion or the Lord's Supper mean to you?
2. What do you think motivated Judas to betray Jesus?

3. Why do you think the disciples talked about which of them was the greatest immediately after Jesus instituted the Last Supper?

4. What did Jesus say to begin correcting their false ideas about true greatness?

5. If they served others as He did, which they eventually did, what did Jesus promise them?

Write your comments, suggestions, and thoughts on the [Bible Lesson Forum](http://biblelessonforum.com/) at <http://biblelessonforum.com/>. Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson* at [International Bible Lessons](http://internationalbiblelessons.org) at <http://internationalbiblelessons.org>.

— © Copyright 2013 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.
Permission Granted for Not for Profit Use.