

➤ **Read Luke 22:39–62.**

➤ **Reread Luke 22:39–46.**

1. Jesus has just finished the Passover meal in the upper room. He is aware that he is about to be betrayed, yet he keeps his usual routine of going to the Mount of Olives in the evening (Lk. 21:37). He could have avoided capture by changing this routine, but he doesn't. Why not?

The Garden of Gethsemane

Luke refers to the Mount of Olives and omits the specific name used in the other gospels for the place where Jesus and his disciples go after the Passover meal: the Garden of Gethsemane.

2. Jesus must have been overwhelmed with thoughts and emotions at the prospect of his betrayal, yet he still cares for his disciples before going off by himself to talk to God the Father. What does Jesus entreat the disciples to do, and why? (v. 40)
3. What temptations might Jesus' disciples be facing in the coming hours?
4. How has Jesus equipped his disciples to pray against temptation? (Consider Mt. 6:9–13.) Can you think of some other ways Jesus has prepared them to face temptation?

5. What is the symbolic “cup” to which Jesus is referring in his prayer (v. 42)? (Mk. 10:38, 45; Is. 51:17, 22; Rev. 14:10)

Luke is the only gospel writer who mentions that the Father in his kindness sends an angel to strengthen Jesus in his darkest hour (v. 43).

6. What prepared Jesus to submit to the Father, even when he is in absolute agony over the suffering he is about to face? (v. 42; Jn. 6:38; 13:31; 17:4; Heb. 5:7–9)

7. Why must Jesus, who submitted perfectly to his Father’s will, even to the very end, be made to take the cup of suffering and wrath? (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13)

8. Jesus falls to his knees and sweats profusely as he considers what awaits him in the coming hours.
- How does he deal with the temptation to avoid the pain and suffering ahead of him? (vv. 42, 44)

Kneeling in Prayer

“Kneeling in prayer (v. 41) was not customary in Jesus’ time (standing was the normal posture). But this scene is one of intense emotional strain.... Matthew and Mark say that Jesus fell to the ground (Matt 26:39; Mark 14:35).”¹

- How does he prepare and encourage his disciples, who are also exhausted and sorrowful, for what is about to happen? (v. 46)

➤ **Reread Luke 22:47–53.**

9. How does Jesus' question remind Judas who he is betraying? (v. 48; Dan. 7:13–15; * Ps. 55:12-14)

Kissing Your Rabbi

“Whereas it was customary for a disciple to greet his teacher with a kiss, here it serves as the means of betrayal, to identify Jesus in the darkness.”²

10. Judas is not the only one who has failed to understand Jesus' identity and authority; Peter springs to Jesus' defense by going on the attack (Jn. 18:10). What is Jesus' response? (v. 51)
11. Jesus points out his enemies' hypocrisy in coming out in force in the dark of night as if he were a criminal. Why do you think they come for him in this manner instead of arresting him during the many days when he was teaching at the temple? (Lk. 22:1–2)

➤ **Reread Luke 22:54–62.**

Luke's narrative now follows Peter to the high priest's house, where Jesus has been taken for questioning.

12. Just a few hours ago Peter bravely vowed that he was “ready to go with [Jesus] to prison and to death” (Lk. 22:33). When questioned now, what does Peter tell the servant girl about his relationship to Jesus? (v. 57)

13. Earlier Jesus told Peter, “before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me” (Lk. 22:34). This has obviously come to pass exactly as Jesus said, but Peter is overwhelmed by the circumstances of Jesus' arrest and trial. What does it take for Peter to remember Jesus' prophecy? (v. 61)

“The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter” (v. 61a).

The word Luke uses here for “looked” is the same one “John uses (John 1:42) to describe the way Jesus looked at Peter when they first met.... It usually signifies a look of interest, love or concern.”³

14. Peter had been arrogantly confident in his own ability to be loyal to Jesus and love him sacrificially. In the moment of temptation he is instead cowardly and betrays Jesus.
- a. What does Peter's reaction reveal about the state of his heart?

 - b. What hope has Jesus given Peter to remember as he realizes the weight of his sin? (Lk. 22:32)

15. Read the prayer Jesus taught in light of what we have seen in this passage: Jesus' deep trust in the Father and the disciples' deep need.

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.” Mt. 6:9–13

Now take time now to pray as Jesus taught us, recognizing our deep need and his trustworthiness.

*📖 For further study

¹ Frank E. Gaebelin, Gen. Ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary with the New International Version of the Holy Bible in Twelve Volumes*. Vol. 8 (Matthew, Mark, Luke) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 1032.

² Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2007–2008, note on Lk. 22:47.

³ Expositor's, 1033–1034.