

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1: PARTICIPANT  
WEEK 2: WEEK OF MARCH 10  
**THE UPPER ROOM**  
Luke 22:24–38

OPENING

- L In the name of Jesus, our humble Savior.  
C **Amen.**  
L To You, I lift up my eyes,  
C **O You who are enthroned in the heavens!**  
L Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
C **as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress,**  
L so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
C **till He has mercy upon us.**  
L Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
C **for we have more than enough of contempt.**  
L Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
C **of the contempt of the proud.**  
**All: Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

—Psalm 123

INTRODUCTION

In this section of the Passion Narrative, Luke takes us to the Upper Room, where Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples. The Upper Room is filled with powerful memories. In John's Passion Narrative, we remember that moment in the Upper Room when Jesus stripped Himself for service and washed His disciples' feet (John 13:1–20). There, we see Jesus kneeling and washing the feet of disciples who would desert Him and of one who would betray Him.

Luke does not include that event in his account of the Upper Room. He does, however, offer us the teaching that Jesus embodies in that act of selfless service.

After Jesus had celebrated the Passover with His disciples, an argument arose among them about which of them was the greatest. Faced with the prediction that one of them would betray Jesus (22:21–22), the disciples responded by arguing about their greatness (vv. 23–24). How easily we turn to our own good works as a way of defending ourselves from any accusation of sin!

Our truest defense, however, lies in Jesus. He is the one who gave His sinless life that we might be forgiven. So, we stand before God and the world in His righteousness rather than our own.

In this passage, Jesus invites us to follow Him in lives of self-sacrificial service. Jesus uses this strife about glory to teach the glory of service. He invites His disciples then and now to live in humble, self-sacrificial service as they stand in His righteousness and serve in His love.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus has taught His disciples about greatness (Luke 9:46–48; 14:7–14; and 18:9–14). In doing so, He gave them a radically different view from the world. In this text (22:24–30), how does the radical greatness of God differ from the ways of the world?

2. How does this teaching prepare the disciples to understand what Jesus is about to do? (cf. Philippians 2:5–11).

3. How does this teaching prepare the disciples for their future service? (See Luke 22:35–37 and compare with Romans 8:16–25 and 2 Corinthians 4:7–18.)

4. How does this teaching prepare us for service in God's kingdom?

## CONCLUSION

Every age has its ways of glory. For us, magazines anoint men and women of the year with the glory of fame, and markets crown new rulers with the glory of wealth.

Jesus, however, comes into a world filled with arguments about greatness and reveals the true glory of God. God's glory is found in self-sacrificial love for the least. By humbling Himself as a servant, offering His life for the forgiveness of sin, Jesus revealed the glory of God.

Forgiven by Him, we now live in Him. He calls us, His disciples, to follow the servant's way, walking with God in self-sacrificial love for the least.

## CLOSING

Almighty God, You rule the heavens and the earth, and earthly temples made with human hands cannot contain Your glory. Yet, on that night when He was betrayed, Your Son stretched forth His hands and brought Your saving glory to our world, revealing Your love in His suffering service for the least.

Visit us now, we humbly pray, that we might repent of our vain attempts at glory. Forgive us our sins and renew our humble service, that we might live as Your children, brought by grace into Your glorious kingdom and sharing Your gifts in self-sacrificial love with the world.

Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.