

Dundonald Youth: Luke

Week 5: When Darkness Reigns!

Open in prayer: Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus.

DO THIS STUDY FIRST - then listen to Pete TG talk!

Starter Question: Have you ever been put on the spot about whether you're a follower of Jesus? How did you feel? How did you react? In today's passage Peter is put on the spot - as we go you can think about similarities or differences between how he felt / reacted and your own experiences...

Read Luke 22:47-53.

- a. Why is Judas' betrayal so sickening?
 - v47 "*Judas, one of the twelve*" = He has been a close friend and disciple of Jesus during his ministry?! Judas isn't some random stranger, he is one of Jesus' nearest and dearest.
 - v47 "*Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them*" = he has completely changed sides. He's now the leader and guide of this armed crowd that have come to arrest & ultimately kill Jesus.
 - v48 "*are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*" = Instead of a kiss of love, this is a kiss of death. Even his act of betrayal is an upsetting image of deceit and treachery.
- b. How do the disciples react? v49 they remember their swords (cf.v38) and ask if they should fight! One of them¹ doesn't wait for an answer and strikes, cutting off the servant of the high priest's ear - remember Luke has 'carefully researched' his 'orderly account' and he even includes the detail of which ear it was!
- c. What does v51 reveal about Jesus, and about following him? Even as Jesus is betrayed and arrested he displays kindness and power. He preached 'love your enemies' and here he heals a man who has come to arrest and kill him. In Luke 22:36-38 he was telling his disciples that from now on they need to be prepared - the world has made up its mind about Jesus and his disciples must be prepared for the tough life that comes with following *this* king - but he wasn't talking literally about using swords for fighting. V51 shows they got the wrong end of the stick, as Jesus undoes their action and restores the man. The battle against darkness will not be a physical war.
- d. Why is it telling that the religious leaders are arresting Jesus at night, in secret, with weapons? Jesus' question (v52) calls out their ridiculous behaviour - he isn't leading a political revolution / a violent rebellion, he isn't a dangerous criminal that requires restraining. Jesus is a teacher of God's word, speaking in public (in the temple courts), but they are arresting him in secret (cf. Luke 22:2 & 22:6). Jesus is the light of the world (even healing a man who'd come to seize him) but they armed with swords and clubs, and are servants of darkness. They are supposed to be the religious leaders, but the contrast couldn't be clearer.

¹ John 18:10 reveals that it was Peter that did this

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Read Luke 22:54-62.

- a. Does anything surprise you as you read v54 & v55?
 - They head to the house of the **high priest** - the person that is supposed to represent the people before God, the person that can enter God's presence and make atonement for the people - but here he is, a central player in arresting the Son of God, the true high priest?! It's so upside down!!
 - Remember Luke 22:33? **Peter** said he would be by Jesus' side even if it meant prison or death! But he 'follows at a distance', and round the fire there is an ominous tone to 'Peter sat down with them' - *whose side is he on?* Again, it all feels upside down?!
- b. How do events unfold with Peter in v56-62? What strikes you?
 1. A servant girl says Peter was with Jesus, Peter denies even knowing Jesus. At the very first hurdle (and in their culture a servant girl wasn't a particularly threatening hurdle), Peter chooses his path and refuses to be associated with Jesus.
 2. Later a man says Peter is one of Jesus' followers, Peter vigorously denies it.
 3. Later another says Peter is one of Jesus' followers (his accent gives him away) but Peter says he doesn't even know what he's talking about?! Immediately the rooster crows (cf Luke 22:34), Jesus looks at Peter, and Peter breaks down in tears.

It is striking how thoroughly & totally Peter disowns Jesus. Judas was the traitor, but 'passionate Peter' that promised such loyalty has also totally abandoned Jesus. But it doesn't surprise Jesus?! He knew it would happen, even as he is betrayed by Judas & Peter, Jesus is still in control?! It's striking to think of burly fisherman Peter weeping as he realises what he has done.

- c. **Read 22:63-65.** How do you feel as the scene draws to a close? It's a tragic scene. God's King, God's Son, is mocked and beaten. He's been betrayed and abandoned and though he is totally righteous, unrighteous men hurl insults at him, completing Jesus' rejection.

NOW LISTEN TO THE TALK - Youth Bible Series 5

1. As followers of Jesus, who & how do we fight? *We fight against against sin and our sinful nature and Satan. It's not a physical battle with swords or shields, but a spiritual battle of faith, with prayer, God's word, and God's Spirit. For more on this check 2 Timothy 2:22 & Ephesians 6:10-20.*
2. Which most applies to you...
 - a. I need to be careful about being self-confident that I'd never abandon Jesus...?
 - b. I need to say sorry for disowning and being ashamed of Jesus...?
 - c. I've said sorry for letting Jesus down, and I need to accept his forgiveness & love...?
3. How should we respond to today's passage, including 1 Peter 2:24? *Praise Jesus that he was willingly betrayed, abandoned, beaten for people like us, and that by his wounds we are healed! Ask for strength to fight sin, for forgiveness where we've failed, and faith to loyally follow Jesus!*

Pray: about everything God has spoken to us in his word today!

Listen/Sing: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (acoustic) - Dundonald Worship

Meditate: 1 Peter 2:24