

COMMENTARY

Luke 22:

- vs. 1-6 The Passover was a time for the Jewish people to remember how God delivered them out of slavery in Egypt. They would offer a lamb as a sacrifice and were spared death from God's angel. They continued the sacrifice in succeeding years.
The officers would have been the Levitical officers who had charge of the temple watch. The thirty pieces that they agreed on was the same amount to be given to a master whose slave had been accidentally killed.
- vs. 7-38 The Israelites in Jerusalem gladly welcomed fellow Israelites as guests during the time of Passover. They would provide the room for their guests to remember the Passover. The guests then would give the host the skin of the sacrificed lamb and the vessels that were used. Peter and John went to make the arrangements; this included not only finding a room, but also seeing that a lamb was bought and sacrificed, roasted for the meal besides making sure that unleavened bread was provided along with wine, bitter herbs, and a sauce.
The wine which had been provided for the meal along with the unleavened bread Jesus gives a new meaning to. He tells His disciples that this would be a reminder to them of His body and blood that was given for them. He told them that a new agreement was being made with God and was sealed by His blood.
Jesus emphasizes to His disciples the need to serve and have a servant spirit. He then tells Peter about Peter betraying Him 3 times before the rooster crowed.
- vs. 39-46 Jesus spends time in prayer asking God if there was another way that sin could be atoned for and man redeemed. We see that He then submits to the will of God.
- vs. 47-53 Jesus is then confronted with a group of people who were led by Judas. Among the group were the 24 chief priests besides the Levitical officers and the elders.
- vs. 54-62 Peter denies Jesus three times during Jesus' trial or hearing before the high priest.
- vs. 63-71 A common game in that day was to blindfold someone and have them guess who hit them until they got it right. Then another would be blindfolded.
Between 70 and 72 people made up this council. 23 were needed for a quorum. They usually did not meet on festivals or Sabbaths but in the case of Jesus they made an exception. The claim of Jesus that He was the Son of God was the truth but the council refused to accept it and charged Him with blasphemy.

COMMENTARY

Luke 23:

vs. 1-25 Since the Council no longer had the power to execute a death penalty they took Jesus to one who had that power, Pilate. Pilate upon examining Jesus finds that He is no threat to Caesar yet the religious leaders continue. Pilate upon learning that Jesus was from Galilee sent Him to Herod who had jurisdiction over that region.

When Herod was not given miracles by Jesus as testimony of His innocence he became irate. Herod takes part with his soldiers and ridiculing and mocking Jesus. They take off Jesus' outer garment and place on Him another which was a military robe and represented authority. Jesus simply allowed and accepted such abuse.

Pilate and Herod had both found Jesus innocent. Yet, because of the pressure Pilate was willing to beat an innocent man to appease the people. Pilate finally gave in and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

vs. 26-43 Jesus again speaks of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and how people will be glad to be childless and not see their loved ones put to death.

It was a custom of both the Jews and the Romans to execute criminals outside of the city wall or the boundaries of a camp. Jesus is taken for crucifixions outside of the city to an area that was used mainly for such executions.

Crucifixion was an ancient form of capital punishment. A cross made of wood that was about 10 feet in height was used. When planted in the ground the one being killed was not far from the ground. Their body rested on a wooden peg that was fixed in the cross. Their limbs were tied and then nailed to the cross by long iron spikes. The cause of death was usually exhaustion. It would take a victim 2 to 3 days to die.

The Romans made a concession to the Jews in that they allowed a victim to be buried the same day as their crucifixion. To hasten the death a fire might be set at the base of the cross, or hungry beasts would be allowed to attack the victim, or the victims bones would be broken using an iron mallet.

The wine vinegar or gall that was offered to Jesus was a form of pain reliever used in that day.

vs. 44-49 Jesus' death was surrounded by miraculous events. The tearing of the temple veil symbolized that the barrier between God and man had been removed by Jesus. The military guard of 5 men had kept watch to this time to prevent any of the victims friends from rescuing them. The centurion, who was the one in charge recognized Jesus then as a righteous man.

vs. 50-56 Jesus was placed in a tomb that had been cut out of a hill. In order not to defile themselves and keep the Sabbath the preparation of Jesus was postponed.

COMMENTARY

Luke 24:

vs. 1-12 The women on the first day of the week went to prepare Jesus' body properly. They found the tomb open and the body gone. The two angels who appeared inform the women that Jesus has done that which He had spoken of; He had risen from the grave. The women then ran back to where the disciples were gathered and told them all that had happened. Even yet there was still skepticism about the resurrection.

vs. 13-35 Jesus appears to two of His disciples as they were traveling. They inform Him of all that had taken place. They also expressed their hope that He had come to reign. Jesus then takes the time to explain to them that all that had taken place, had to happen. Even then they failed to recognize Him. When He broke the bread and began to give it to them then they realized who He was and recognized him. He then disappeared from them.

They then arose and returned that same day to Jerusalem and informed the disciples of the recent events that had transpired.

vs. 36-49 Jesus then appears to all them who were gathered as they were discussing the events on the road to Emmaus. He showed them convincing proof that He was Jesus who had died. He ate with them and took away any doubt that it was a dream. He then refers that all had taken place to fulfill the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. These are the 3 divisions of the Old Testament that the Jews use.

The Law of Moses would be our first five books. The Prophets would include in this order; Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings and then Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. The last division, called Psalms because it was the first book of the section, included these books in this order: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and then I & II Chronicles.

Jesus then went on to tell them about the proclaiming of the Gospel which would take place first in Jerusalem. He told them that they would receive power and were to wait in Jerusalem until it came.

vs. 50-53 Jesus after spending and appearing over a forty day span took them to the region of Bethany and there ascended into heaven.

STUDY GUIDE

Luke 22:

1. Why were the chief priests and officers of the temple guard delighted to give Judas money?
2. How were the disciples to know where they were to prepare to have the Passover meal?
3. What significance did Jesus attach to the partaking of the bread and the cup?
4. How did Peter refer to his dedication to Jesus and what did Jesus reply?
5. On the Mount of Olives what did Jesus pray for?
6. Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss?
7. What did Jesus say to the group that had come to take Him?
8. List the times that Peter denied Jesus and finally cite the response of Jesus following the third denial.
9. What happened to Jesus between the time He was before the High Priest and the time He went before the council?
10. What two questions did the council put before Jesus and what was His response?

BONUS:

1. Why did the chief priests and company need Judas' help to take Jesus? How do Christians today betray their Lord?
2. What is the "New Covenant" that Jesus refers to in verse 20? How does it affect us today?
3. Why would the council have felt Jesus was guilty of a crime on His confession that He was the Son of God? Was He? How do Christians fail to recognize God's power and what Jesus can do in people's lives today?

STUDY GUIDE

Luke 23:

1. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod for questioning?
2. Why did Herod want to see Jesus?
3. What was Pilate's analysis of the situation? What did he want to do?
4. Why did Pilate grant the peoples demand?
5. How was Simon of Cyrene involved in the crucifixion?
6. Who insulted or macked Jesus when He was on the cross?
7. What happened from the sixth to the ninth hour?
8. After the events had taken place what did the centurion say and do?
9. Who asked for Jesus' body and what was done with it?
10. What did the women do after seeing where Jesus was buried?

BONUS:

1. What lessons can we learn from Pilate and Herod as Christians? How are they examples of what should not be done?
2. How do people mock and insult Jesus today?
3. Name ways that people today become convinced of the existence of God and recognize His power and might.

STUDY GUIDE

Luke 24:

1. Why had the women gone to the tomb on the first day of the week?
2. What did the two men in white tell them about Jesus?
3. Who were the women and who did they tell about it? How did Peter respond and what did he find?
4. What happened to the two men who were walking on the road to Emmaus?
5. How did the men describe Jesus and what did they seem to be confused about?
6. What did Jesus explain to them? What sources did He cite as evidence?
7. When did the men realize that it was Jesus who had joined them and had been teaching?
8. What evidence did Jesus show to prove that He indeed had risen from the grave?
9. Why were the disciples to stay in the city?
10. What happened when Jesus led them out to the area of Bethany?

BONUS:

1. Cite examples of times when there are some who can't believe that God has worked in great ways. Are there times when we don't understand God's plan? Explain.
2. How are people convinced today of the existence and power of Jesus Christ?
3. What does Jesus' ascension mean to Christians today?