

Sermon Series: The Night Jesus Was Betrayed: Luke 22:1-65

Sermon Text: Luke 22:31-46 Prayer and Temptation

Because trials come upon us, Christ prays for us and calls us to prayer.

1) Christ prays for our perseverance (22:31-38).

- a) The Trial of Faith
 - i) "Satan demanded to have you" (v. 31)—cf. Job
 - ii) "to sift you like wheat" (v. 31)—trial designed to prove Peter is chaff
 - iii) "that your faith may not fail" (v. 32)—trial designed by Satan to destroy faith
 - iv) "when you have turned again" (v. 32)—implies stumbling
 - v) "you will deny three times that you know Me" (v. 34)
 - vi) "When I sent you out . . . but now . . ." (vv. 35-38)—The disciples could not count on the hospitality of the people as they had; the world will be hostile (vv. 35-38)
 - vii) He was numbered with the transgressors" (v. 37; Isa. 53:12)—criminalization of Jesus and His followers
- b) The Inadequacy of Human Strength
 - i) "Simon, Simon" (v. 31)—not "Peter" the rock
 - ii) "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." (v. 33)—sincerely mistaken
 - iii) "the rooster" (v. 34)—proverbial of foolish pride (cocky)
- c) The Effectual Prayers of Christ Jesus
 - i) "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail" (v. 32)
 - ii) "When you have turned again, strengthening your brothers"
- d) **Application:**
 - i) We have a Mediator (Job 9:33).
 - ii) Suffering may be ordained for you, but God will bless it to you (1 Peter 5:10).

2) Christ models prayer as He prays for the Father's will to be done through His suffering for our sakes (22:39-44).

- a) The Trial of Christ
 - i) "this cup" (v. 42)—Ps 75:9; Isa 51:17, 22; Jer 25:15; 49:12; Lam 4:21
 - (1) Satan's fury
 - (2) Humanity's rejection and hatred
 - (3) Cup of God's Wrath
 - ii) Suffering in full humanity—body, soul and spirit
- b) The Prayer of Christ
 - i) Filial Trust—"Father"
 - ii) Humility—"remove this cup" (v. 42)—under no illusion that the suffering is not real; "lead us not into temptation"(Luke 11:4)
 - iii) Submissiveness—"if You are willing . . . Yours be done" (v 42)
 - iv) Earnestness:
 - (1) Physical Posture—"knelt down" (v. 41)
 - (2) Inner Posture—"being in agony" (v. 44)—victorious struggle/wrestling
 - (3) Vigorous Prayer—"more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood" (v. 44)
- c) The Aid of Heaven (v. 43)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Full Humanity of Christ
 - ii) Christ's Communion with the Father as Second Adam and Unique Son of God
 - iii) Christ's Example (Hebrews 4:14-5:7; 1 Peter 2:21-23)

3) Christ calls us to pray for deliverance from temptation (22:40, 45).

- a) Because the Trial of Faith Is beyond Our Strength
 - i) The World—humanity united in hostility against the Lord and His Christ
 - ii) The Flesh—that principle of sin that seeks independence from God
 - iii) The Devil—the spiritual wickedness that seeks to prove us false, destroy our faith, or at least weaken us
- b) Because Christ Prays for Us
- c) Because He Will Strengthen Us to Strengthen Others
- d) **Application:**

- i) Thank God for the prayers of Jesus for you.
- ii) Ask for wisdom to discern temptations in your life.
- iii) Begin your day with prayer, at least briefly. Follow the Lord's prayer as a model or recite it with sincere faith and love for God.
- iv) Ask for wisdom to discern temptations in the lives of those you love and pray for their escape.
- v) Identify with fellow strugglers and come alongside them in the fight.
- vi) Ask for God to be glorified, His goodness to be displayed, in your life and in His Church.

Doxology: Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me! (Psalm 66:20)