

Luke 22:1-20

Given for You

Intro: How do we know God is working? Good confessionally Reformed Christians will say God is always working. Every molecule serves his purpose and pleasure. Amen!

Some look for signs. Certain things happen that don't seem to be a coincidence and the takeaway is that God is working.

Some give up on believing that God works. They have become functional deists. God started the creation but has been hands off ever since. Why pray; what use is it?

This text helps us to see how God works. Specifically, how he works in history, through fallen humanity, against a cunning enemy, and ultimately by giving up his Son for us.

Let's reorient our thinking to see how God truly works.

1. God works in real history (1)

- In vs 1, we are introduced to a *historical event*.
- Luke describes the Feast of the Unleavened Bread to his non-Jewish readers as the Passover.
- Of all the events in the OT, Passover carried the most weight.

That Passover recalls the night in Israel's history when God's judgment was heavily poured out on the Egyptians (Ex 12). On a single night a plague swept through Egypt and killed every firstborn male...unless you were part of God's covenant people, had *faith* in his word, and had sacrificial blood applied on your doorpost that night. You and your family were spared from wrath.

- Israel observed Passover once a year, on the 14th day of the first month of the Hebrew Calendar. After the sun went down, a family would gather and remove everything that was prepared with yeast from the house. The family would eat a lamb that was slaughtered earlier, and they would continue to eat unleavened bread the next 7 days (also called Feast of Unleavened Bread).

Summary:

God works in real history—with real flesh and blood, through real death. The Bible is about redemptive history. Not every Christian is a history buff—but every Christian should care about history because it's the way God works.

2. God works through fallen humanity (2)

- We see this clearly in the Joseph story (Genesis)—how God even uses the evil of fallen humanity to work good. Like Jesus, Joseph faced great betrayal. But in the end, he said God worked good out of evil (Gen 50:19-20).

It teaches us the truth: God works through fallen humanity...*because that is all he has to work with.*

- In our text, we see God working through fallen humanity twice
 1. From the outside/opposition (v2)—not surprising
 2. From within (Judas)—surprising
- From vs 4 we see that Judas takes initiative; Mt 26:15 “what will you give me if I deliver him to you?”—shows how dark his heart really was.
- In all the Gospels, the way he is presented I think serves as a *warning* for believers. Here are the cryptic words “was of the number of the twelve” (v3)
—Maybe we can bring it into 2019. “Was a member of _____ church; spent years at TRB.”

The truth: *Just because are in very close proximity to the things of Jesus, does not mean we are immune from betraying him, turning our backs on him.*

Warning: Anyone can be intimately close to the things of Jesus and betray the faith. This does not call us to speculate about our fellow church members, asking who is a Judas...but to watch our own heart.

Be sure we have a faith that is a *genuine faith*.

3. God works against a cunning enemy (v3-6)

- Here we get a fuller picture of what went on inside Judas; we also get a picture that what's happening is in a much larger, cosmic and spiritual scale. Satan is behind it.

- There has been a gap in Satan's activity since Ch. 4:13.

“¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.”

—That leaves us hanging and waiting for him to resurface in the story.

- The very name Satan reveals his character, “Adversary”. Satan has an adversarial role against God and all of God's people.

- The name Satan is a carryover from the Hebrew word *adversary*

- We heard Jesus back in 10:18 say that he saw Satan fall like lightning; it appears to be a reference to him losing control.

Apply: It's worth mentioning this fact that makes following Jesus a bit more dangerous. Satan targets some individuals: here with Judas, again with Ananias (Acts 5:3).

As I prepped the sermon, my mind went back to the first pastor in my life. He was a powerful Bible teacher. The Church loved him. Nice and kind. Externally, God blessed the church.

But a hidden life cost him his ministry and almost his marriage. Some was probably due to his lack of discipline, devotion to holiness. But I can't help but think the devil had some influence.

(2 Cor 2:11) Let's not be ignorant of Satan's schemes.

Let's also remember what Jesus said about being watchful and staying awake (21:34,36); it's the same warning Peter gives:

“⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith,”

4. God works by giving his Son up for us (7-20)

- We notice Jesus still has complete command and control (7-13) in selecting a room.

- Just remember, this would have been a challenging task with the large crowds in Jerusalem.

It would be like going to a ball game in a major city and trying to find that perfect, affordable, and safe parking.

Application—

We also see Jesus being the exemplary *leader*.

A Passover was a family setting. The father was the leader at the table. I don't want to create Trinitarian confusion—but in the setting of the Passover meal, Jesus takes on a fatherly role with his disciples. The father is to be the *spiritual tone setter*.

I once listened to a man who aired his grievances at the world. He was unhappy and bitter. He left his wife for another woman when his daughters were in high school and moved 800 miles away. He complained that on Father's Day neither of his daughters could even pick up the phone and call.

This man was an expert at initiating things that served himself—his passions and lusts.

Christian dads have a different standard. Jesus.

Our standard imitates with sacrificial love and holiness.

Christian dads, it's our role to be *spiritual initiators* in our families. Even if you have the most godly wife, don't just outsource spiritual leadership to her. Lead spiritual conversation with kids, even if your children are grown and out of the house. Lead prayer. Be quick to reconcile, forgive, and ask for forgiveness.

Set the moral tone in the house. Be like Jesus.

- (14ff) We have what we call the Last Supper. It would look vastly different than DaVinci's painting. Jesus and the disciples would be on the floor, reclining on pillows.
- V15 Jesus eats this Passover before he *suffers*.

*v15 "I've earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you"

[Literally, with desire, I've desired]

—It's one of the most emphasized ways someone can tell us something. For example: "I've waited a long time for this".

Two possible reasons:

1. Jesus wants fellowship with the ones he loves.

John's Gospel (Jn 13:1) highlights this - "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

**We resonate with that. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, how would you spend this evening? Probably not playing golf by yourself. You would want the handful of closest people you love by your side and share your heart with them.

2. The spiritual significance. It is here where Jesus speaks more concretely about his mission to save his people. His death forgives sins, which is the greatest act of deliverance people need.

- Now after a Passover meal, traditionally the host would retell the Exodus story. It would point back and help God's people remember.
- But Jesus does something "outside the box" —something new—he gives the meal a new meaning.
- There would have been 4 cups during the meal passed around. Jesus takes the traditional 1st & 3rd cup and gives new meaning. A new work of God

The most important thing to see is his *redeeming love*.

Suppose you have the proverbial rich uncle. Throughout your life, he said—if you have a large need, just let me know and it will be covered. So, several times you do this. When you needed your first car, to get you through college, and to purchase your first home. You feel the love and kindness.

But let's say one day you and your uncle were in the wrong place at the wrong time and got mugged. The gunman was about to pull the trigger and your uncle steps in front and takes the bullet. You are left standing next to your uncle who is lying in a pool of his own blood.

Every day of your life, you remember you are alive because your uncle died. You escaped that day because he shed his blood. Every breath you draw from that day forward is a blood bought gift.

- That's where Jesus is going with this. Except it's not a rich uncle; instead, it's God own Son.
- V19 The bread symbolizes his physical body which is "broken for you".

- (v20) Jesus says that his blood is “poured out for you”.
- In the original, it’s literally *on your behalf*.
- It’s very particular and specific redemption.

(Is 53:5-6) has this picture

- “⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 and with his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned—every one—to his own way;
 and the Lord has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.

- Also, Jesus’s death is not the result of the chief priest’s plot, or Satan’s presence....*Jesus died because it was central to God’s plan. It’s the work of God.*

- “¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
 he has put him to grief;”

- Finally, we see the love of God in Jesus’s death.

(Rom 5:8)—

- “⁸ but God shows his *love* for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Conclusion:

Spurgeon: “It’s a sign of grace when a person is sick of self.” It’s a sign to know that God is working. If you are sick of yourself today, there is one remedy—look to the Savior. Come to the cross. See his sacrifice. Take shelter in his dying love for you. Come under the covenant blood that saves. Put your faith in the Son who was given for you.

For those under the blood—the redeemed—remember. Remember the cost, the sacrifice, the punishment, the crushing. (1 Cor 5:7) “For Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”
Find your assurance in the Son who was given for you.