



As we continue to work through Luke’s Gospel, we join Jesus in His last supper with His disciples before we walk with Him up into the Garden of Gethsemane. Soon, we will hear the Temple Guard soldiers crowding into the Garden to arrest Jesus. As we walk with the Lord through this Gospel, we need to realize Luke is inviting us to open our hearts to God in a new way. This is particularly important today, when the hearts of so many are raging against the Lord: *“A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord”* (Proverbs 19:3). These raging hearts have no intent to submit to God, His perspective, nor His boundaries. In fact, their response is intense enough that those with different opinions are very reluctant to express them. But we cannot give in to this rage. **We must have a joy in the Lord that is greater than the rage against Him.** The author of Hebrews tells us, *“For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross.”* There was a joy in Jesus that superseded all the hatred, violence, and torture arrayed against Him. But He was not quiet, and He did not compromise. He did not withdraw His assertion nor deny His assignment. To follow the Lord in His example to us, and to fulfill God’s assignment for our lives, we must guard our hearts: *“Above all else, **guard your heart**, for it is the wellspring of life”* (Proverbs 4:23).

***What are some practical ways you can guard your heart?**

FROM GETHSEMANE TO GOLGOTHA

Timeline for Jesus

- ❖ Upper room for dinner, upper city of Jerusalem
- ❖ Across town, through the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane
- ❖ Jesus arrested late Thurs evening in Gethsemane
- ❖ Taken to home of High Priest, Annas & then to Caiphas, held thru the night
- ❖ Friday Morning, taken to Pilate, Praetorium
- ❖ From Praetorium to Herod, near Jaffa Gate
- ❖ Back to Praetorium
- ❖ Golgotha

Luke 22:24–30 *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

***How can Christians choose to be “great” like Jesus defines?**

Luke 22:31–34 *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”*

***Have you ever overestimated your ability to handle a test of faith? If so, what happened?**

Jesus Arrested

Luke 22:47–53 *While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”*

The Guards Mock Jesus

Luke 22:63–65 *The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.*

Peter Disowns Jesus

Luke 22:54–57 ⁵⁴ *Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.*

***Share a time when you did something because of peer pressure, then later regretted it. What did you learn about yourself? How did it strengthen you?**

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

Luke 22:66–23:1 ⁶⁶ **At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.” Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.” ⁷⁰ They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You are right in saying I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”** **23** **Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.**

Luke 23:1–5 *Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.” ³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. ⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.” ⁵ But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”*

Luke 23:6–12 ⁶ *On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.*

***In your experience, what are the consequences when you try to avoid making decisions?**

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

Luke 10:1–3 *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

***Where do you think are some of the ripest harvests (people ready to receive the gospel) in today’s world?**

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Word and for all those who have gone before us to illuminate the pathway for the message You bring to us. Thank You we have Bibles we can read, churches where we can gather, and fellowship with one another. We stand in Your presence to say, “Here we are. Send us.” We do not need to cross an ocean or learn a new language, but we might have to cross the street or a hallway. Open our hearts and our eyes to see the harvest around us and recruit laborers for those harvest fields. Allow us the privilege of stepping into those fields. We ask You to keep us under Your watchful eye and to protect us from everything that would diminish, disrupt, destroy, harm, or distract. More than anything, may You be pleased. In Jesus' name, amen.