

## **Exegetical Notes - Luke 22:23-38**

### **“Fighting At the Lord’s Supper?”**

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## **Luke 22:23-38**

### **Verse 23**

*They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.*

- The other apostles had no reason to suspect Judas as Jesus’ betrayer. Unable to understand Jesus’ words, they became suspicious of each other.

### **Verse 24**

*Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.*

- The discussion among the twelve as to which of them might betray Jesus became heated as they began to accuse each other of being the one who “might” betray him. They began to argue among themselves as to who was most likely to do it.

### **Verse 25-26**

*Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 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.”*

- Jesus used the argument as an opportunity to teach the twelve about true greatness. He pointed out that people of the world, the Gentiles, those who are not even Jewish, like to hold positions of authority over other people and use their authority to gain status and power over others. But he said that those who followed him would not behave according to the world’s standards. Jesus said that those who held power among his followers would act as if they did not hold power. Instead of using their power the way the world does, his followers would use the authority given to them to help others.

### **Verse 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.”***

- Surely, Jesus is their “Rabbi,” their teacher. Clearly, he is the greatest among them. And yet he has just set an example for them. At the table, he is the one who should be served by them, but clearly, he has just served them the Passover meal. Though he should have been the one who was served, he was the one who served. This is the model of servant/leadership which Jesus set for his disciples to follow.

### **Verse 28-30**

***“You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”***

- Jesus explained that the twelve Apostles will have a high place in the Kingdom of God. They will sit on twelve thrones there and judge the tribes of Israel. They will be seated next to Jesus at his table there. They will indeed be exalted and lifted up.

### **Verse 31-32**

***“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”***

- Then Jesus turned to Simon Peter, perhaps the greatest of all the Apostles. He told Peter Satan was to test his faith. He said that he had prayed for Peter and yet, Peter would fail the test... “When you turn back.” He told Peter to learn from the experience and to use it to strengthen the other Apostles.

### **Verse 33-34**

***But he (Peter) replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”***

- Peter boasted to Jesus that he is ready to withstand the tests of Satan. He boasted that he is ready to go to jail with Jesus or even to die with him. But Jesus knows that Peter will fail Satan’s test. He knows that Peter will betray him three times before the dawn of that very day.

Jesus revealed the future to Peter, but Peter was undaunted. He believed he could withstand the test that Jesus said he would fail.

### **Verse 35-37**

***Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered. He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors;’ and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”***

- See Luke 10:1-24. When Jesus first sent out his disciples, public opinion was in their favor, The people to whom they went supplied their every need. They were favorably received and needed to take no provision with them nor any means of protection.
- But now, times had changed. Public opinion would swing against him and his followers. Those who went in his name would be mistreated by the very people who once received them. See Luke 21:12-19.
- All this would happen to fulfill what was written about Jesus in the Bible.

### **Verse 38**

***The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That is enough,” he replied.***

- Among them, the twelve already have two swords. They want Jesus to know that they are ready to defend him. But they have missed the point of his remarks entirely. He is warning them about the change in the times which they are about to see. He has just told them to set a new model of leadership based on using power to serve others. But they are showing him their swords.
- Jesus’ remark, ‘That is enough,’ does not refer to the number of swords. Two swords were not enough if Jesus’ intention was to mount an army that would take over the world by military force. His intention was to mount an army of loving servants. But the disciples had missed the point. They were still caught up in the things of this world. Jesus’ comment simply means that, for the moment, the conversation is over, and it is time to move on.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Fighting at The Lord’s Supper?* They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)