

**Luke Study 16**  
**Lk 22:39-65**

**Introduction**

Jesus has said that one of the disciples will betray him (22:21). Now, we see it happen. By the end of this passage, everyone will have abandoned Jesus: Judas, the disciples, Peter; even the guards who hold him before trial will mock him. But Jesus will not abandon them. Even though it would have been easier for him not to die on the cross, Jesus will, because it is his Father's will. Jesus is totally faithful to people even when they are totally unfaithful to him.

**Read 22:39-46**

1. Where do Jesus and the disciples go after they have finished the Passover meal?
2. What does Jesus ask the disciples to do? What do you think that means?
3. What does Jesus do?
4. Jesus mentions a 'cup' being taken from him. Read Isa 51:17; Jer 25:15-16; Rev 16:19. How does this help us understand what 'the cup' is? And Jesus' reaction in 22:44?
5. How have the disciples gone at doing what Jesus asked them to do?
6. On the cross, Jesus drank 'the cup' of God's wrath for our sins in our place. What does Jesus' reaction to the prospect of having to do this tell us about the gravity of our sins, and the lengths to which Jesus went to pay for it?

After they finish the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples go to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus asks them to pray that they won't 'fall into temptation,' i.e. the temptation to abandon him. Jesus then goes and prays himself, that God will remove the 'cup' of his wrath from him, i.e. that Jesus won't have to go to the cross to pay for human sins. But if he has to, he will. An angel appears to strengthen him, but Jesus is still in anguish: the prospect of facing God's fury is so terrifying that he starts to sweat blood. When he finishes praying, he returns to find his disciples have already begun to abandon him: they cannot even stay awake to pray. But Jesus will continue: though his disciples abandon him, he will not abandon them.

**Read 22:47-53**

7. What does Judas do?
8. How do the disciples react? How does Jesus respond to them?

9. What does Jesus ask the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders? What does this say about the nature of Jesus' kingdom? And how his followers should respond to violent persecution?
  
10. Read the following passages. What do they add to the picture of how Christians should respond to violent persecution?
  - Ro 12:15, 17-21
  - Heb 10:32-35
  - 1 Pe 4:12-13, 19

Judas does what he said he would do: hand Jesus over to the leaders when there is no crowd present (22:6). The remaining disciples are incensed: one of them cuts off one of the official's ears. But Jesus isn't leading the kind of kingdom that advances or defends itself through force. He heals the official's ears and scolds the leaders for coming for him as if he would resist with violence. His is a peaceful kingdom. But they arrest him anyway.

#### **Read 22:54-65**

11. What happens to Jesus?
  
12. Read 22:31-34. What had Peter said he would do when this moment came? What had Jesus said Peter would do?
  
13. What does Peter do?
  
14. But what hope is there for Peter in what Jesus told him in 22:32? What hope does this hold out to us when we sometimes fail Jesus?
  
15. What do the men guarding Jesus do?

Jesus' abandonment is complete. The unofficial leader of the disciples, and one of Jesus' best friends, Peter, swears black and blue that he will stick to Jesus until the end, even to the point of having to die with him. But when the moment comes, he loses his courage. Following Jesus 'at a distance' to the place of his arrest, the high priest's house, Peter has three opportunities to identify himself with Jesus, and uses all three to deny him. It is only when the rooster crows three times - as Jesus said it would - that Peter realises what he has done and, overcome with guilt, flees in tears. Meanwhile, Jesus is left to his guards, who mock and beat him. He is totally alone. And yet he continues, because this is his Father's will.