

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #89

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:47-53

Sermon Date: Jun 17, 2007

To Catch Something, First Let it Go

There's an ancient Chinese warfighting stratagem, "yu qin gu zong", which literally translates "want catch temporarily let go." It is telling us that sometimes it is best to do the opposite of what seems to make sense in the short term. For example, the stratagem suggests that to truly conquer an enemy, it can be more important to win their hearts than their cities. I'm not sure we're very good at this approach anymore. It goes against the alleged "American Way" of living for the moment and grabbing all the gusto you can get at any given time. It leaves me wondering, as a Christian, am I willing to let go of things I think are important in order to accomplish something I know is more important?

Jesus was. "Not my will, but your will be done," he said to his Father. Then he allowed himself to be arrested by a mob led by Judas. Jesus knew that, in order to rescue us, he had to let himself be captured, and even killed. To catch something, he first let it go. What are you willing to let go of in order to obey God – to advance His kingdom? Let's explore Jesus' sacrificial example in Luke 22:47-53, and listen closely to what God is saying to us about our own lives, about our hearts, about what we must let go of.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week’s Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 22:47-53</p> <p>⁴⁷ 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?”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.</p> <p>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.”</p>	

2. Now read the other three gospel accounts of this event, noting the additional insights you gain and questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Mark 14:43-52</p> <p>⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.</p> <p>⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.</p> <p>⁴⁸ “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.</p> <p>⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Matthew 26:47-56</p> <p>⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.</p> <p>⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."</p> <p>Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.</p> <p>⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.</p> <p>⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"</p> <p>⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>John 18:2-12</p> <p>² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.</p> <p>⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"</p> <p>⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.</p> <p>"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.</p> <p>⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"</p> <p>And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."</p> <p>⁸ "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."</p> <p>¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)</p> <p>¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"</p>	

Look Closer:

3. What was the most significant thing you noticed as you read the four gospel accounts of the scene where Judas and the crowd he led come upon Jesus and his disciples in the garden?

4. How does Jesus interact with Judas? (Lk 22:48, Mt 26:50)
What does this tell you about ... (a) Judas? (b) Jesus?

5. How would you have felt if you were one of the 11 disciples, seeing for the first time that Judas was in fact a traitor? How was Peter's behavior in response to the crowd led by Judas different than Jesus' behavior?

6. How long does Peter appear to wait for an answer to the question in Luke 22:49 before he takes action in verse 50? How good are you at waiting after you pray – taking time to patiently listen and truly seek God's answers to your questions & petitions before taking matters into your own hands?

7. Jesus allows Satan to have a tactical victory (which we know Jesus could have stopped – such as he explains in Matthew 26:53). He allows this in order to submit to his Father's will, even though this meant suffering a humiliating defeat and excruciating death at his adversaries' hands. Do you trust God enough to follow him and obey him even when what He asks you to do seems contrary to logic and good strategy? How have you been tested in this regard?

8. Jesus surrendered to an armed mob in the garden, knowing it would lead to his death on a cross – in order to carry out his Father's plans, and in order to save you.

In what ways can you better imitate Christ by following God's plans at any cost?

a. God's plan was that Jesus surrender his life in order to rescue God's people. Similarly, God's plan is that his followers will also face trouble for the good of God's kingdom. Is there something you know you should surrender or let go of, but that you have avoided doing so because the cost appears to be too high?

b. God's plan is for us to share the good news with others. Who are you afraid to share the gospel with, possibly because the cost appears to be too high?

- c. God's plan is that his people will continue to grow in Christ-likeness day-by-day. What step toward personal growth in your faith are you avoiding these days, perhaps because the cost appears to be too high?
- d. God's plan is that his people will live as servants. Is there a ministry role that you have an opportunity to fill and the skills and heart to do well, but you are thus far turning it down because your life is too full (i.e. the cost appears to be too high)?
- e. Is there anything else you know God wants you to do but that you're avoiding, because the cost appears to be too high?
9. Have you surrendered yet?

Then he [Jesus] said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)