

TALK IS CHEAP

Luke 22:47-62

- Betrayal of Jesus occurs when we use Jesus for our **purposes** instead of **surrendering** to His. (vv. 47-53)
- Denial of Jesus happens when **fear** of people becomes greater than **love** for Jesus. (vv. 54-60)
- Jesus' mercy is far **greater** than our own weakness, betrayal and denial. (vv. 61-62)

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. In Luke 22:47-48, Judas used a sign of affection to betray Jesus. In what ways can people today hide selfish motives, compromise, or sin behind outward kindness, flattery, or religious behavior? How can believers lovingly “wound with truth” instead of offering deceptive “kisses?”
Prov. 27:6, Psalm 41:9, Gen. 27:26-27
2. Read Luke 22:49-53. Why do you think Jesus healed Malchus after Peter attacked him? What does this reveal about Jesus' character, His mission, and the way Christians should respond to our enemies and conflict today?
Luke 6:27-28
3. Jesus, rebuked the crowd in verses 52-53 that they came for him as a common thief and did it under “power of darkness.” Discuss how God uses the evil of man to carry out His divine purposes.
John 1:4, Acts 2:23-24
4. Read Luke 22:54-60. Peter's denial grew out of fear of people and concern for self-preservation. Where are Christians today most tempted to “follow Jesus at a distance” or stay silent about their faith because of fear of rejection, ridicule, or consequences?
1 Cor. 10:12-13, Prov. 29:25, Matt. 10:27-28
5. In Luke 22:31-34, Jesus knew Peter would fail, yet He also promised that Peter's faith would not ultimately fail because Jesus was praying for him. How does the character of God and Christ's ongoing intercession encourage believers who struggle with guilt, failure, inconsistency, or spiritual weakness?
Ex. 34:6-7, Heb. 7:25, Matt. 11:28-30
6. In Luke 22:61-62, Peter responded to Jesus' look with repentance and grief, yet Jesus later restored him and used him powerfully. What is the difference between worldly regret and godly repentance? How does Peter's restoration give hope to believers who feel disqualified by past failures?
Matt. 10:32-33, Rom. 2:4, John 21:15-19, 2 Cor. 7:10

