

	Fragile	Unstoppable
Great value	Infant	Tunnel boring machine
Little value	Beach sandcastle	Cockroach

Clearly the work of God has... **Great value!**

Is the work of God fragile or unstoppable...

- in the world?
- in the Church?
- in our church?
- in a brand new Christian?
- in you and me?

Help us to see and believe the unstoppable work of God in Christ!

1



## Something New

*Luke 22:1-46*

[bib.ly/Lu22.NIV](https://bib.ly/Lu22.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

2

## Covenant relationship between God people:

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
 “when I will make **a new covenant** **Old New**  
 with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. **The Passover The Lord’s Supper**  
 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors  
 when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,  
 because **they broke my covenant**, though I was a husband to them,”  
 declares the Lord.  
 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,”  
 declares the Lord.  
 “I will put my law in their minds and **write it on their hearts.**  
 I will be their God, and they will be my people.  
 No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
 or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’  
 because **they will all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest,”  
 declares the Lord.  
 “For **I will forgive their wickedness**  
 and will **remember their sins no more.**” *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

3

## The greatest celebration of the New Covenant

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare  
 a feast of rich food **for all peoples**,  
 a banquet of aged wine—  
 the best of meats and the finest of wines.  
 On this mountain he will destroy  
 the shroud that enfolds all peoples, **Jesus celebrated Passover**  
 the sheet that covers all nations; **by giving it new meaning, while**  
 he will **swallow up death forever.** **anticipating this final feast**  
 The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces;  
 he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth.  
 The Lord has spoken.” *Isaiah 25:6-9*

**Yet Satan and sin worked to keep it from happening!**

4

*Luke 22:1-2*

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the **Passover**, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.

**Religious leaders sought to kill Jesus (privately)**

- **Jerusalem was the place to kill Jesus (place of their power)**
- **Jesus rarely came there, and may soon leave**
- **Crowds were volatile, could easily riot, and they liked Jesus**

5

*Luke 22:3-6*

Then **Satan entered Judas**, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them **when no crowd was present**.

**Judas was the means to kill Jesus, prompted by Satan**

- **Finding a time when Jesus was in the area of Jerusalem but the crowds were not present**

6

*Luke 22:7-13*

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

“Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

They left and found things **just as Jesus had told them.** So they prepared the Passover. **Jesus and apostles prepared for Passover**

7

*Luke 22:14-20*

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again **until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.**”

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God comes.**”

8

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; **do this** in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is **the new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you.

**Jesus gave the New Passover: He was the sacrifice**

**“Do this”:**

- **celebrating the Lord’s Supper**
- **giving our bodies in service to others in thanks to God**

9

*Luke 22:21-23*

“But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go **as it has been decreed**. But **woe to that man who betrays him!**”

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

**One of the apostles at the table would betray Jesus**

- **Jesus intentionally made it ambiguous**
- **In a rare moment of humility, they each wondered if he might be the one!**
- **If one of the apostles, chosen by Jesus, living and learning from Him for 3 years, could do it, certainly you and I could too!!**

10

*Luke 22:24-30*

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 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. 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.

11

“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.

**Apostles completely missed the core of following Jesus!**

- **Yet they would still have important roles in His Kingdom!**

12

*Luke 22:31-34*

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of 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.”

But he 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.”

**Satan attacked Peter, and Peter would deny even knowing Jesus!**

- **Yet he would still have an important role in His Kingdom!**

13

*Luke 22:35-38*

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.”

The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

“That’s enough!” he replied.

**Jesus warned the apostles about big challenges ahead**

14

*Luke 22:39-46*

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

15

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

**Jesus prayed earnestly! And the apostles slept**

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### Luke 22:1-49

- 1-2 **Religious leaders** sought to kill Jesus (privately)  
 3-6 **Judas** was the means to kill Jesus, prompted by **Satan**  
 7-13 **Jesus** and apostles prepared for Passover  
 14-20 **Jesus** gave the New Passover: **He was the sacrifice**  
 21-23 **One of the apostles** at the table would betray Jesus  
 34-30 **Apostles** completely missed the core of following Jesus!  
 31-34 Satan attacked **Peter**, and he'll deny knowing Jesus  
 35-38 Jesus warned the **apostles** about big challenges ahead  
 39-46 **Jesus prayed earnestly!** And the **apostles** slept

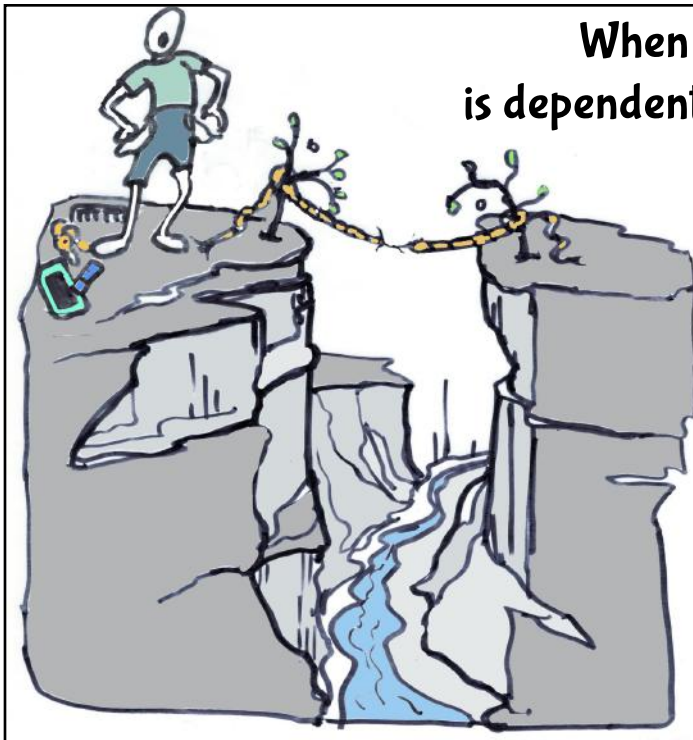
17

### The Big Idea

**Jesus saved people  
 by giving His own life as the saving sacrifice  
 and rising to total victory by His own power  
 despite all the attacks, sins, and failings  
 of His enemies  
 and even of the ones He died to save**

- The heart of Christianity is NOT good people!
- The heart of Christianity is an amazingly good and gracious God!  
 – *As God rescues the people who are not good and gracious*

18



When we imagine that the work of God  
is dependent upon people doing well enough,  
it is a very weak hope!

We imagine that  
sometimes,  
for some people,  
it just might work

But not for people like me!

And probably not  
for people like you either

19



The work of God has been completed  
by the Son of God  
Nothing else is needed  
Nothing else can stop it

Not even...  
betrayal, denial, and abandonment  
the tireless efforts of powerful people  
the attacks of Satan

**We follow Jesus with great boldness  
not because we are faithful and good  
but because He is!**

20

### The Big Idea

**Jesus saved people  
by giving His own life as the saving sacrifice  
and rising to total victory by His own power  
despite all the attacks, sins, and failings  
of His enemies  
and even of the ones He died to save**

- The heart of Christianity is NOT good people
- The heart of Christianity is an amazingly good and gracious God!

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### Application

Rejoice that the core of the Gospel is the amazing grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ

- **Nothing in all creation can stop or spoil the saving work of Jesus!**
- **Not...**
  - The religious establishment
  - The sinful betrayal of one of the apostles of Jesus
  - The denial and abandonment by the apostles of Jesus in the time of His greatest sacrifice
  - No human institution, whether religious or secular
  - Our sins and failings

22

**“In Christianity, we do not celebrate our own faithfulness  
but the faithfulness of the Lord.”**

**“In the Gospel, we do not celebrate our own faithfulness  
but the faithfulness of the Lord.”**

**“In Communion, we do not celebrate our own faithfulness  
but the faithfulness of the Lord.”**

**The Gospel, at its core, is superabounding grace!**

**Grace = Jesus’ death in our place so we can live in His place**

23

### **Application**

Rejoice that the core of the Gospel

is the amazing grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ

- **Jesus takes our sins and our failings as if they were His own!**
- **And He gives us the blessings and honor that should be His**
- **Oh, the joy!!**
  - **Where then is boasting?**
  - **Where then is self-loathing or trying to carry our failings?**
  - **Where then is arguing which of us is better and which is worse?**
  - **Where then is judging ourselves or one another?**
- **Rather...**
  - **We rejoice that we, the worst of sinners, are saved by Jesus!**

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## Application

Follow Jesus with boldness and courage

- **“Do this in remembrance of me”**
  - **“God remembered Noah”**: head, heart, hands
  - **Head**: in right understanding of God and His work, and of us
  - **Heart**: in worship and trust
  - **Hands**: in action
- **“Jesus’s life of giving Himself unreservedly to God for the good of people who didn’t deserve it should be the model for all those who join with him in this Supper.”**
- **Having been saved by grace, we are called to complete obedience**
  - **Live like Jesus in, by, and for remembrance of Him**

25

- **The heart of Christianity is NOT good people**
- **The heart of Christianity is an amazingly good and gracious God!**
- **So the work of God is unstoppable**
  - No need to worry or fear
  - Rather: join His work with courage and boldness!
  - So the question is: will we trust in that work, and join in it?
  - I need this word!
- **Ask God for the opportunity to tell this to someone this week**
  - Especially someone who is fearing that they are too weak for God



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