**“Hope in Betrayal”**

Going deeper in Luke 22:1-6, 31-38

**INTRODUCTION –** The cross is looming ever closer and Jesus knows exactly what is coming. Next week we will celebrate Palm Sunday and the beginning of Passion week. This Sunday we are turning to a point during Holy Week that is difficult because it involves a treacherous betrayal and broken promises of loyalty.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**Luke 22:1-6**

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, **2**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. **3**Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. **4**And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. **5**They were delighted and agreed to give him money. **6**He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

**Luke 22:31-38**

**31**“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. **32**But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

**33**But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

**34**Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

**35**Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they answered.

**36**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. **37**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.”

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

“That’s enough!” he replied.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Jesus knew his disciples would betray and deny him. Yet he still loved them and he still walked toward the cross. How do these things affect your relationship with Jesus? What affect do they have on your response to his sacrifice?

2. Why didn’t Jesus reveal the name of his betrayer to the other disciples?

3. What is ironic about Jesus being betrayed and put to death during Passover? What is the significance of Judas choosing the dark of night to betray his Lord?

4. In verse 32, Jesus sets the stage for the restoration of Peter. What hope do you hold for yourself in this?

5. Peter’s courage took him to the courtyard. Why do you think he then denied Christ?

6. What differences are there between the choices and actions of Judas and Peter?

7. How can you guard yourself and prepare to be ready to be faithful to Christ even when put under severe pressure?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Rejoice and give thanks for God’s unwavering love for you!

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a genuinely repentant heart.

\*Give thanks that through the blood of Jesus Christ your sins can be forgiven!

\*Pray for those who need to hear the good news of the unshakeable hope to be found in the perfect love of Jesus. Ask the Lord to equip you to share that good news.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Right now, how will you…

1. acknowledge the awfulness, and weep at the reality of, your sin?

2. rejoice in the knowledge that your Lord knows you completely, yet still loves you enough to die for your sins?

3. find comfort in your own difficulties from knowing that Jesus has faced worse, and yet remained truthful and loyal?