



## “Jesus Rises Up”

Luke 22:47-53

January 31, 2021

We are going to be in Luke Chapter 22. The title of this morning’s message is *Jesus Rises Up*. I realize that there was a certain risk involved in that sermon title. With a sermon title like that someone might think that this is a sermon about the resurrection, but it is not. That sermon is coming in just about two months.

This morning we go back into the Garden of Gethsemane where we see Jesus rise up in another way. Last week we saw Jesus bowed down in prayer as though the weight of the world was on His shoulders. He was bowed down in the garden with anguished prayer. This week we see Jesus rise up out of that time of prayer with a renewal of strength and resolve that is glorious and beautiful to see.

As we pick up the story this week, let me remind you that in Luke Chapter 22, it was the night of the Passover feast in Jerusalem. Jesus was less than twelve hours away from His crucifixion. Jesus had been in the Upper Room with His disciples within the city walls of Jerusalem. Now together they went out to their place of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. We recall that in that upper room Jesus inaugurated that great sign of the New Covenant, the Lord’s Supper.

Jesus took the Passover meal and He altered and elevated it, turning it into the Lord’s Supper. But it is interesting because as we move on from that moment, it seems that the gravity and the weightiness of the atonement that He was very soon to provide began bearing down upon His soul.

Last week we saw how Jesus was dripping forth blood. He was sweating mighty drops of blood. In His prayer we saw how Jesus in His humanity was experiencing temptation. As the weight of it all was bearing down on Jesus, His temptation was to not go forward with drinking the cup.

He even prayed, Let this cup pass from me. But even greater still was the fact that Jesus couched that to the will of the Lord. Father, if it is your will let this cup pass from me. Not my will but your will be done. So this morning we see that Jesus came through that time of temptation in the garden just a rook away from the cup and He passed through it.

In a similar way, in a way that is comparable to what happened back in the Garden of Eden, the first Adam succumbed to temptation and led the human race into sin. However, it was in another garden, the Garden of Gethsemane, that the last Adam, Christ, prevailed over temptation in order to lead His people into their salvation; the salvation that He gives as a gift by His grace,

Now as we dig in, we see Jesus coming out of His time of anguished prayer and He see that He was refreshed in His resolve. As I look into this text I see Jesus in boldness, speaking to those who would be coming against Him.

I pray that you will see this wonderful boldness of our Messiah and be empowered by that prayer as we dig into this text. Let's read what in Luke Chapter 22 and Verses 47 through 53:

**<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" <sup>49</sup>And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" <sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup>When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."**

In Verse 52, we read how this formidable crowd led by Judas Iscariot came out against Jesus. There was hostility that was indicated by the use of that very word. This crowd came out hostile in their intent. They were against Jesus.

As we read the end of the story they would make off with Jesus. They would assault Him. They would mock Him. They would manhandle Him. On a certain level it would seem that they were in control. However, a careful look at the text indicates otherwise.

Make no mistake about it, brothers and sisters, Jesus was in charge, even in the scene that we see unfolded here before our eyes. Jesus was in charge. Jesus prayed that the will of the Father would be done.

The will of the Father is that the church of God, the bride of Christ, is purified of sin and adorned in righteousness and prepared for their eternal place in the glorious Everlasting Kingdom of God. It is the will of the Father that the Passover Lamb be sacrificed that we, the people of Jesus, who come into Him by faith, might be purified, and that His spilled blood might wash us white as snow.

So now resolved that the will of the Lord be carried out, we see Jesus moving forward. Jesus submitted to the mob, but He indicated that He was in charge all the way through. This rises up off the text in such glorious ways here in this passage of Scripture.

It is my prayer that we see Him and ultimately that the end of our observation is worship. The inside of us being transformed by gazing upon God so that it is seen in the way that we live our lives. That is the essence of what worship is.

The end is that we see and know Christ and that we be abiding in Christ so that the character of Christ might be manifested in us as we walk through the darkness of the days that we are living in as well in His grace and power.

Let's see Jesus. I want you to see how rising up from prayer, Jesus was bold. First, we will see how He was with His betrayers. Then we will see how He was bold with His disciples, and, finally, we will see how Jesus was bold with the enemies that had come against Him in that mob.

First we see, rising up from prayer, Jesus was bold:

### **1. With His betrayers (22:47-48)**

We read about this in Verses 47 and 48:

**<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them.**

Get that in your mind. Judas was the one charging forward, showing the way. And,

**He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

Any notion of Judas Iscariot as some kind of conflicted and divided soul is not consistent with the picture that is portrayed of him in the New Testament. Every mention of what happened to him in this betrayal states that Judas was leading it, organized it, coordinated it and saw it through with premeditated determination.

There was something within Judas and Satan entered into him and only fueled the fire that was already there. We see here in this text that Judas came close to Jesus to betray Him with a kiss. A kiss was a customary way for men to greet one another in that day and time. It is still the custom in many places in the world.

In this text, Judas utilized the way of greeting to his master-teacher in the darkness to help those who had the swords and clubs to know which man to get. Notice how Jesus responded to him, giving him warning about what he was doing.

**<sup>48</sup>... "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"**

To appreciate the way that Jesus interacted with Judas here, let's notice how He was not interacting with him. Jesus did not appeal to their friendship in some effort to get out of the situation. Jesus did not say, Judas, Judas, after all the time that we have spent together? After how close we have been? After all the meals we have shared? After the way we have dipped the same bread into the same cup? How could you do this to me, Judas?

Was that the approach of Jesus here? No, it most certainly was not. Jesus did not appeal to Judas in a personal way like that. Neither did Jesus appeal with a right sense of propriety that there ought to have been between a pupil and his rabbi.

In the Jewish world, their culture demanded a high level of loyalty and honor and respect whenever somebody was being taught by a rabbi. So Jesus was not going to appeal to this saying, Judas, after all that I have invested in you and instructed you and after all the training and provisions, and after all I have poured into you, will you now dishonor me in this way?

That was not how Jesus appealed to Judas either, was it? Jesus went much higher here and He said, Judas, will you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? Jesus was not getting personal, He was getting prophetic. He appealed to the glorious vision, the elevated position as proclaimed in Daniel's prophecy of this one who is the Son of Man.

The pinnacle of the wonderful prophecies that the Spirit brought forth through our brother in the Lord, Daniel, is in Daniel Chapter 7. This is a portion of Scripture that we as the body of Christ need to know inside and out, because Jesus spoke of Himself as the Son of Man repeatedly.

This is what He was appealing to; how this heavenly scene of glory was unfolding before Daniel's eyes. Daniel Chapter 7 and Verses 13 and 14:

**<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man (the Messiah; the Anointed King),  
and he came to the Ancient of Days (This is the Father)  
and was presented before him.  
<sup>14</sup>And to him (the Son of Man) was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.**

The Son of Man is an awesome, divine figure, the One who reigns over a kingdom that is unshakable; the One who is given all authority on heaven and on earth. Now Jesus was saying to Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? So all of us who can now read this account can look at what happened here and experience a proper fear of the Lord; seeing what the human heart is capable of. Judas knew this prophecy.

Also, if you want to know how that angel encouraged Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, I am convinced that he encouraged Christ by reminding Him just who He was—the Christ, the Son of Man; the One who would reign over a kingdom of sinners made holy by His blood. The angel reminded Jesus that it was His calling to put away the sins of His people, then be elevated and enthroned and catapulted way on high.

He is the Son of Man so after the events in this text going into the trial, Jesus will speak to the Sanhedrin's, saying, You will see the Son of Man coming to you on the clouds of Heaven. And Jesus said to Judas, Would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? Would you use the universal symbol of affection as a sign of your treachery against the Messianic King?

This is a reminder for all of us who read how the human heart can become familiar and fearless even in the face of things that are holy. We need to ask ourselves, Is there any sense of ongoing resentment or malice or something that is foul in my heart toward the things of the Lord; toward the people of the Lord? Is there anything inside of me that is just wrong? Maybe even toward people that I am in covenant with – in church, in marriage, in family?

My understanding of Judas is that he is a picture for us of what resentment can do to the human condition. He did not like the way that Jesus was handling the money. His expectations of the Messiah were not unfolding the way that he thought they should.

There was some kind of resentment that was stirring up and growing and increasing in the heart of Judas before the Lord, so that it came to the point he where he said that he was done with it. And then Judas went to those who had been opposing Jesus all along, and he organized this way of handing Jesus over to them.

Let us be warned, brothers and sisters, of what smoldering anger can do to a human being. This is a warning that goes forth to the church. Speaking to the believers in Ephesus, and all who would read that letter, it says:

**<sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin** (Ephesians 4:26)

Yes, there is a form of righteous indignation. Then there are all kinds of other things that we get angry about and we have no right being angry about those things. Things just don't go our way and we don't like it and we get sour.

If it is the case with righteous indignation—be angry and do not sin—how much more all the other forms of indignation?

**<sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil.** (Ephesians 4:26-27)

Impure emotion and that bitterness and that resentment that smolders inside of us is a foothold for the enemy. My understand is that this is the foothold Satan gained in the life of Judas. So the will of the Lord is,

**<sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.** (Ephesians 4:31)

Praise God for what the Holy Spirit can do within us when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

We need to confess our sins of resentment, saying, Lord, I thank you that I am a person in Christ, but I have this lingering resentment in me and I need You to wash it out of me. Just scrub it! Get it out of me, Lord,

How we need to go before the Lord and ask Him for His help. We need to pray like David did,

**<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart!**

**Try me and know my thoughts!**

**<sup>24</sup>And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139, Verses 23 and 24)**

Incidentally, David wrote those words after an eruption of anger, I hate wicked people! I hate them with all my heart. That is my summary of what immediately precedes this passage. You can read his exact language.

Like: David, dude, you are talking about how you hate all those wicked people out there. What about what you did with Bathsheba and Uriah? But here is why David was a man after God's own heart—search me, O God.

Anger is impure. Get it cleansed! Jesus was bold with His betrayer. Would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? Continuing, rising up from prayer, Jesus was also bold:

## **2. With His disciples (22:49-51)**

We see this in Verses 49 through 51:

**<sup>49</sup>And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” <sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.**

So we see Jesus with a pretty serious rebuke and reproof of His disciples as they took up their swords. Jesus said no! Stop it! When you read what is there, the disciples began on the right track. They asked a question, Lord, should we take up swords now?

That is a good question if you ask me. Do you remember from a couple of weeks ago, how Jesus instructed the disciples trying to get across them that the atmosphere was going change. If you don't have a cloak and don't have a sword, sell the cloak and buy a sword.

I mentioned to you then that here we are two-thousand-years later with this Scripture under my eyes and the Spirit within me and I am still scratching my head asking what the Lord Jesus meant by that. It seems inconsistent with what He said about loving your enemies. Take up a sword? What was going on here?

If I still wrestle with this and have time for reflection, how much more were the disciples doing the right thing by saying, Lord, are we right now supposed to grab the sword and have at it out here with this crowd? Is that what you want us to do?

Good start but before Jesus could answer, one of them hit the accelerator while the light was still red, went right into the intersection and crashed! It is not named here but those of you who have read the Gospel accounts know who it was. Any of you who have gotten know Simon Peter, you know exactly who it was.

Simon Peter jumped in. He was better with fishing nets than he was with the Machaira sword. Evidently Peter snuck up behind Malchus, the servant of the Chief Priest, and cut off his ear. Malchus was a trusted servant, somebody who had the high position closest to the highest priest in the land.

Then Jesus said, Enough of this! What are you doing? Absolutely not! This is not how this is going down. Jesus issued this reproof to His disciples, and then He had to undo the damage that was done. He healed the man's ear.

We just wonder how that happened. Did Jesus pick up a whole ear from the ground and slap it right back Malchus' head so that it worked better than ever before? Or did He just touch his head and instantly there was another ear that replaced his. Jesus has the power to do it anyway He wanted.

Jesus brought this reproof both in word and deed to His disciples. Understanding the humanity of Simon Peter, Peter did that out of loyalty. Have you ever done anything out of loyalty only to have what you did get rebuked? Simon Peter did this out loyalty but in his loyalty, he was going against the will of God.

It was the will of God for the Christ to go to the cross. This is the second time Peter tried to deter that. Do you remember the other occasion? Jesus asked, Who do they say I am? The disciples gave all the options that were circulating throughout Israel. But who do you say that I am, Jesus repeated. Simon Peter said, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Jesus responded, Simon, your flesh has not revealed this to you, but the Lord has revealed it to you. Then Jesus told them He was going forward to His crucifixion and resurrection, and Peter said, Never, never, never, never! Jesus responded, Get behind me Satan.

This was another moment like that, but it was necessary because even in his loyalty, Peter was wrong and was going against the will of the Lord. So it needed to be corrected. Brothers and sisters, Jesus is bold here with His disciples and He remains bold with His disciples today.

Christians need correction. Christians need to be encouraged. They need to be strengthened in the things that are being done right, and they need to be corrected, sometimes reprov'd, and even rebuked with areas of life that are sinful or wrong or out of accord with God's will.

Jesus still intends to be bold with His disciples, correcting them and training them in righteousness. Brother and sister in the Lord, you need correction on a regular basis. And so do I. Correction and reproof is part of the plan of God for your sanctification.

Your view of yourself is about as accurate as a fun house mirror. It is all out of whack. You need people who will help hold up the Word of the Lord to you as a mirror and tell you where it is all kind of distorted, and your life is not imaging God.

Apart from people speaking honestly into your life to help you in the pursuit of holiness, speaking correction and even admonishment into your life, you will not mature in the Lord. If people are not speaking into my life about my blind spots, I will just continue blissfully unaware of them.

Christ still speaks into our lives, speaking truth and correction. He speaks through the reading of Scripture. He speaks through the preaching of the Word. And, yes, He speaks through brothers and sisters telling us things we might be missing. For it says in Colossians 3:16:

**<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..**

We need it! Yet we hate it! Somebody comes and says, Jeff, thank God for the gifts He has given to you, but you are struggling in this area and I am not sure you are aware of it. Then watch Jeff wilt like a daisy!

There is something about the human condition where we resist correction. We don't like it. What? You are going to correct me? No, I am perfect. But when we are filled with the Spirit we will long for correction because that is when we are strengthened.

**Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy (Proverbs 27:6)**

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but the enemy multiplies kisses. So you, who are the Spirit-filled people around you that you can approach and ask to speak honestly into your life? To let you know where you are falling short. Ask them to pray for you to help you to grow.

Rising up from prayer, Jesus was also bold:

### **3. With His enemies (22:52-53)**

We have seen this storm of opposition coming against Jesus. It was a confused situation, but understand that Jesus was every bit as in control of that flurried scene and storm with all of his power to calm where He wanted to calm, just as He was in control of that storm that was raging on the Sea of Galilee. He is the Lord and He is in charge.

Now He also spoke to His enemies. Verse 52:

**<sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup>When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”**

With poise and boldness and strength, Jesus made an observation here and provided a declaration. He saw and described something and then He proclaimed something.

The observation was the inconsistency that was going on—I was sitting in the temple courts having influence, teaching, having persuasive instruction over all of these people day in and day out. You didn't do anything against me then—He was pointing out the inconsistencies that they were practicing in the way that they approached this.

Then came the proclamation. *This is your hour, and the power of darkness* is declaring something. Jesus declared this to that coalition: this is your power. This is your moment. It is driven by darkness and the essence of all of it is your having your moment because you are being given your moment. God is allowing this because it is working into His will.

That is the essence of what is in this text. This was a moment of dark power. Satan was at work in that scene. But it was being allowed to move forward because God had profound purposes in it. They meant it for evil, and evil was at work. God meant it for good, and good was at work.

They meant for the destruction of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus of Nazareth meant it for the redemption of even those trying to destroy Him. So we see that the wisdom of God and the power of God is reigning even when there are scenes that seem so chaotic and unruly. God is at work.

There was darkness then. Believe you me, there is darkness in the world today too. As we see darkness infiltrating the various structures of the world like darkness always has, we don't wring our hands and get all worried as though God is no longer in control. We have to remember that even as it seems that darkness is rising, God has profound purposes that are always, always at work.

So even as we bear light, we do so as those who are poised in the Messiah, knowing that as kingdoms of this world rise and fall, which all of them will, the Kingdom of the Christ is forever, and we are to be a part of His unique, distinct Kingdom community living as His Kingdom and shining the light of our counter-cultural way, filled with Gospel truth, pointing to Jesus who is the one and only hope for the salvation of anybody in this world. We keep our poise as we are filled with the Spirit of Jesus.

In closing, let me summarize. This morning we have observed how Jesus had risen from anguished prayer with fresh resolve as His human nature had been tempted to bypass crucifixion. Christ prayed and submitted it to His Father. Then He was resolute as He approached the cross.

Jesus overcame that temptation. We must pray too. Jesus called us to pray. Next week we will see what became of one of the disciples who did not pray. We will hear the story of Simon Peter. So in view of that, here are some applications.

First,

**1. Pray that you will not enter temptation.**

Hear the call of Jesus. Pray! Pray that you will not entertain any temptation that comes against you.

**2. Pray according to Psalm 139: 23 and 24, so that any seed of betrayal will be removed from your life.**

**3. Invite a Spirit-filled Christian to speak into your life.**

Somebody that loves you, that will be honest with you, that will help you grow, then the whole thing can be reciprocated. That is fellowship. That is discipleship. That is what it is all about.

**4. Keep your confidence in Christ even when darkness seems prevalent.**

The Kingdom of Jesus is unshakable. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will be filled with certainty and it ought to be evident in the countenance of the people of God. An ongoing countenance of joy, kindness, and love, even in the midst of the boldness that is part of being salt and light, not being nasty or foul, but being gracious as we speak into the affairs of the world. We have our eyes primarily focused on Christ and His Kingdom and His Good News.

**5. Repent and turn to Christ in faith.**

Have you been lax in your prayer life? Have you been committing the sin of omission by not praying? Repent of that and come into the presence of King Jesus daily, regularly through the day. Repent and turn to Christ if you have not been praying to Him.

Repent and turn to Christ if there has been anger and malice smoldering in you. Repent of it and say, Lord, I need you and Your forgiveness and for You to change me. If you have been neglecting true and deep fellowship, repent of that and get linked up with brothers and sisters in the Lord.

If you have been smoldering in your public persona in a way that is evident to the outside world, repent of that and let kindness characterize your countenance as you are strong in the Lord. Repent and turn to Christ.

If you have never trusted in Jesus, if you have never confessed before God that you are sinner in need of a savior, repent and turn to Christ today! You let me know because I want to encourage you in it.

Why should you repent and turn to Christ? Because:

1. **Christ is the glorious Son of Man reigning over all.**
2. **Christ is the humble Passover Lamb resolved to atone for sin.**
3. **Christ is the sovereign Lord of all reigning even over powers of darkness.**

Let's pray.

