


Doubtless Living!

THE GOSPEL OF **LUKE**

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That you may have certainty!

ILLEGAL
TRIBUNAL



YOU'RE NOT THE MESSIAH!

YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED GOD!

SANHEDRIN
(JEWISH LEADERS)

created by the Bible Project

ARRESTED, ABANDONED & ARRAIGNED

*DESERTED BY THE DISCIPLES,
MOCKED AND BEATEN BY GUARDS,
AND CHARGED BY THE SANHEDRIN*

Luke 22:54-71

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Arrested & Abandoned Luke 22:54-62

⁵⁴They seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. Meanwhile Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, and Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶When a servant saw him sitting in the light, and looked closely at him, she said, "This man was with him too."

⁵⁷But he denied it: "Woman, I don't know him."

⁵⁸After a little while, someone else saw him and said, "You're one of them too."

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Arrested & Abandoned

Luke 22:54-62

"Man, I am not!" Peter said.

⁵⁹About an hour later, another kept insisting, "This man was certainly with him, since he's also a Galilean."

⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.**" ⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly.

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⁵⁴They seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. Meanwhile Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, and Peter sat among them.

ARRESTED & ABANDONED

- The angry mob seized Jesus and bound Him like a common criminal.
- Fearing for their safety, the disciples all fled and abandoned Jesus.
- The once bold Peter now trailed the mob at a "safe" distance and ended up by the fire outside the home of the High Priest.
 - ❖ The disciples had failed to pray in preparation for this moment, and Peter's confidence, so strong in private, has now wilted.

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GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

- **The guards and the servants of the house were gathered in the courtyard warming themselves by the fire.**
- **One of the maidservants recognizes Peter as one of Jesus' followers.**
 - ❖ Jesus had warned the disciples about this in the upper room.
 - ❖ He told them that He would be counted among the lawless and so would they because of their association with Him.
- **Sadly, just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied that he knew Jesus.**

⁵⁶When a servant saw him sitting in the light, and looked closely at him, she said, "This man was with him too."

⁵⁷But he denied it:
"Woman, I don't know him."

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⁵⁸After a little while, someone else saw him and said, "You're one of them too." "Man, I am **not!**" Peter said. ⁵⁹About an hour later, another kept insisting, "This man was certainly with him, since he's also a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!"

UNPREPARED FOR TEMPTATION

- **Twice more Peter's allegiance was challenged, and twice more he failed.**
 1. You were with him – "I don't know him"
 2. You're one of them – "I am not"
 3. You were certainly with him – "I don't know what you're talking about"
- **The disciple who had once said that he would go to prison and even die for Jesus has now denied Him for a third time.**

The "rock man" had been crushed to pieces by the pressure.

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OVERCOME WITH GUILT

- **Imagine the scene unfolding like this:**
 - ❖ Jesus is being moved to the next trial.
 - ❖ On the way He passes by Peter who is warming himself by the fire with the servants.
 - ❖ They make eye contact and Peter feels Jesus' gaze penetrate deep into his heart and soul.
 - ❖ Peter's thoughts flashback to the upper room, to when Jesus predicted his denial.
 - ❖ And then he remembers how smugly arrogant he had been with his bold assertions.
- **Guilt and shame crush him; leaving him broken, remorseful and weeping bitterly.**

⁶⁰..Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.
⁶¹Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

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⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly.

No one is beyond restoration and redemption!

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

- **Never, ever, forget this scene!**
- **It should always remind us of the awesome power of forgiveness and redemption.**
 - ❖ A few days later, Jesus forgave and restored him.
 - ❖ A few weeks later, the Holy Spirit indwelt and transformed him.
 - ❖ A few months later, his protégés traveled the world, boldly spreading the Gospel.
 - ❖ Within a few decades, untold thousands had been added to the kingdom because of his ministry.
 - ❖ And two millennia later, we are still moved by his passion, challenged by his fearlessness, and inspired by his leadership.

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Mocked & Beaten

Luke 22:63-65

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus started mocking and beating him.

⁶⁴After blindfolding him, they kept asking, "Prophecy! Who was it that hit you?" ⁶⁵And they were saying many other blasphemous things to him.

Betrayed by Judas, abandoned by the disciples, denied by Peter, and now mocked and beaten by the guards.

Arraigned & Indicted

Luke 22:66-71

⁶⁶When daylight came, the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the scribes, convened and brought him before their Sanhedrin. ⁶⁷They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." But he said to them, "If I do tell you, you will not believe.

⁶⁸And if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

⁷⁰They all asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." ⁷¹"Why do we need any more testimony," they said, "since we've heard it ourselves from his mouth?"

ILLEGAL TRIBUNAL

- **The illegal trial before the Sanhedrin broke multiple rules of the Mishnah:**
1. The proceedings did not take place at the temple.
 2. Jesus was not allowed to have defense council.
 3. The verdict comes on the same day as the trial, when two days were required for capital crimes.
 4. Jesus is being tried on a feast day, normally prohibited.
 5. Contradictory testimony is supposed to exonerate the defendant.

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MESSIANIC RESPONSE

- **Jesus makes three significant claims with His response to their illegal inquiry:**
1. Jesus predicts that He will be seated at God's right hand in heaven, an allusion to His approaching resurrection-ascension.
 2. He claims to have authority from God, an authority He will exercise from then on.
 3. He has authority over them. This may be their trial, but He is the one who will ultimately judge.

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UNEXPECTED HELP

- **Jesus answers their question indirectly, but His reply gave them more than they anticipated.**
 - ❖ **Seeing a possible opening, the religious leaders ask Jesus another question to bait him.**
 - ❖ **Note the causal link in their question that they hope will elicit the desired response from Jesus.**
 - ❖ **Until now, the testimony of the witnesses has been contradictory, and they stood on the precipice of dismissal.**
 - ❖ **But Jesus gave them a gift, and they see it.**

⁷⁰They all asked,
"Are you, then, the
Son of God?"

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⁷⁰..And he said to them,
"You say that I am."

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SELF-INCRIMINATION

- **Who would have thought that Jesus would be the witness the leadership sought all along.**
 - ❖ They had tried but could not convict Him based on the testimony of others.
 - ❖ But Jesus, willingly and intentionally, confessed!
 - ❖ And in so doing, He sent Himself to the cross in His own words!
- **No, that was not a mistake, it was fully, entirely and completely intentional!**

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus was not a victim; He was a volunteer!
- The time had come, and despite the ineptitude of the religious leaders, God's plan would be accomplished.
- Jesus stood fearlessly before his accusers, to face His fate, with nerves of steel and unwavering commitment.
- He knew that He must die so that others could live; that was the plan, that was God's will, and He was 100% committed to it.
- Jesus was on trial for all of us. He stood where we ought to be standing. Without our sin, He would never have been there.
- He bore our sins and paid our penalty, so that He can forgive, redeem, restore, empower and use us for His glory.
- **How have you responded? Where are you on the journey?**