

## **Determined to Die**

[Announce Text] Please Open your Bibles to Luke 22:1-23. [Page 881-882](#)

[Scripture Introduction] Good morning, my name is Brett Sweet and I'm one of the pastors here at Grace Christian Fellowship where we exist to glorify God through gospel-centered worship, evangelism, discipleship, and community. We are continuing our series through the book of Luke.

[Prayer for illumination] Please pray with me...

[Illustration] An all-knowing doctor has informed you that you have less than two days to live. There's no getting around it, even though you feel healthy now, you are going to die. It has been confirmed and determined. What would you do? How did you get here? What could have gone differently? Would you run from it? Would you live in denial? What can be gained from your imminent death? Has this all come by chance? But what if there was one way out? Do you think you would take it?

In a sense this is the reality that Jesus is living as we turn the page into Luke 22. It has been determined for Him to die. There is one possible way out, but it would involve sinning. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have determined that Jesus' mission involves dying as a substitute for sinners. Perhaps Jesus could choose not to. But instead, in chapters 22 and 23 we are going to see this main idea about Jesus. He is

**[Proposition] Determined to die for you.**

I try to include application in my big ideas- how we should respond. But the emphasis here, as in all of Christianity, is that this is Jesus doing all the work. Our application is to know and believe and rejoice and be humbled and experience His love. It is all because Jesus was determined to die for you. We'll look at three attributes of this determination. We'll see here that Jesus is determined to die for you. That He's determined to die after dinner. And then we'll ask the question, "Determined, but who did this?"

**[Main Point 1] Determined by enemies**

It's Thursday and Jesus is going to die the following day and there are enemies at work to make sure that it will happen. Who are these enemies?

[Subpoint 1] The same old enemies

Look at vv. 1-2 with me

*Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.*

The chief priests and scribes have been after Jesus for a long time. Jesus has known they want Him dead. But as an able-bodied male, Jesus wants to obey and be present in Jerusalem for the Passover which is followed, the next day, by a week-long feast of Unleavened Bread. And these same old enemies will kill Jesus, if they can figure out how to do this without losing the favor of the crowds.

They're the same old enemies, but they don't really have a great idea exactly *how* to do this, so they'll blunder their way forward, but they're determined enough that these same old enemies will prove that it has been determined for Jesus to die for you.

Determined to die for you. Determined by enemies- the same old enemies, but they aren't the only enemies. Let's see another enemy:

[Subpoint 2] The oldest enemy

Look at v. 3

*Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot...*

This is not a demon oppressing someone, this is Satan himself, actually entering into one of Jesus' 12 closest disciples and friends. Satan has been a murderer from the beginning, Jesus tells us in John 8:44. As soon as there was human life, Satan has been looking for a way to destroy it. Satan tried to overcome Jesus in the wilderness but failed. He left, waiting for an opportune time. And now the oldest enemy is back, determined to make sure that the eternal Son of God dies.

Jesus is determined to die for you. But there are others who are determined to kill him- his enemies. We've seen the same old enemies- the religious leaders. Then the oldest enemy- Satan. And now

[Subpoint 3] A hidden enemy

Let's read vv. 3-6

*Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.*

We met Judas in chapter 6 when Luke names the 12 disciples. And in v. 6 we received the foreshadowing of this night. He was called “Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.” Judas was, it seemed, one of Jesus’ closest friends. But he has opened himself up willingly to Satan. And the door Satan climbed through was through the door of greed. Now he can give the old enemies, the religious leaders exactly what they want. He can tell them when Jesus will be in a quiet place. Away from the crowds. Where they can sneakily have him arrested.

[Illustration] In the ‘90s movie *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. Robin and the Sheriff of Nottingham are in competition for the affections of the lovely Maid Marian. The evil sheriff gives her a gold handled dagger to use as protection for herself. She, in turn, gives it to Robin so that it can be used to provide for the poor. Then comes the fateful swordfight. Robin’s sword has been broken. Robin cowers near an open window. Seemingly weaponless. Nowhere to go. The sheriff’s sword held high prepared for a fatal stab, when Robin pulls out the hidden golden dagger and plunges it into Nottingham’s chest. But the sheriff doesn’t die immediately, he looks down at the dagger and recognizes it. And he turns to Marian wondering how this gift of protection and love could have led to treachery and his own death.

[Application] It is worth remembering here, that all sin is treason. That no one has been a better friend to us than God Himself. He has provided for us. He has listened to us. He has cared for us. He has never ignored us. He has known what is really for our best. He has given us so many things for our good. We’re given the honor of being made in His image, and we use that God-imaging ability against God. What has turned a friend into a hidden enemy?

For Judas, it was money. He had his price. That’s the only explanation the Holy Spirit offers us. But money is usually a gateway to something else. I wonder if there might have been other factors that we can relate to, to help us avoid betraying our Master. Right now, if I were in Judas’ position, I don’t think greed

would get me. Maybe another day. But not now. But what about this: rest. Judas has been with Jesus and felt the opposition from the influential chief priests, and he's just tired of all the conflict. Maybe he'd rather Jesus win than the chief priests. But he's willing to have either, if it just gets things over with, and there's a little bit of peace. A break. Have you ever felt that way? You're just tired of fighting sin. You're tired of trying to do the right thing. You just want a break. Beware. Look to Jesus He promises to give you rest. Or maybe you want respectability or status. Judas is becoming a trusted ally of the powerful religious leaders. Maybe he will rise in the perception of those around him. Maybe he'll be an influential leader in the coming years. Have you ever felt that way? You want to be out of middle management. You want to be a teacher in a church. You want to be the one people pay attention to. You want to be the one invited on trips and to parties. And you forget that the greatest adventure and status is being God's child. Being God's friend. Being welcomed and treasured by God Himself. Let's throw away the golden daggers that we would use to harm Jesus.

Jesus is determined to die for you. This was determined by enemies. Now let's notice the timing.

### **[Main Point 2] Determined to die after dinner**

Jesus knows that He's going to die. But the timing of this matters. It is wrapped up in a transition that is changing the course of history. He will die after dinner. We'll see first

[Subpoint 1] On old dinner looking back

Let's read vv. 7-16

*Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.*

*And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."*

Passover was the main feast, the dinner, that looked back. It was all about how God had delivered His people from bondage in Egypt through the sacrifice of a lamb in the place of the firstborn sons. Each year, lambs had to be sacrificed. And this is the day these events are happening. You were required to eat this meal in the walls of Jerusalem, so the disciples are wondering exactly how to go about this. These verses imply that Jesus has made prearrangements. Crowds have been following him. A man of wealth- wealthy enough to have an upper room- will allow Jesus and His disciples to eat the meal there. And the signal is that there will be a man carrying a jar of water- something that men just don't do in Jerusalem. This was normally a woman's job- so that was the signal of whom they should talk to.

The men gather, and they drink from a series of cups. And they eat bitter vegetables and herbs. And they eat a lamb...it is the day that it is necessary to have this done.

This Passover meal looks back. To a sacrifice that has led to salvation. A sacrifice that looks back at being freed from oppression and slavery. A sacrifice that looks back and sees that God rules- not evil Pharaohs or kings. A sacrifice that God protects His people. A sacrifice that God's enemies will always be defeated in the end.

And here is Jesus talking about this important meal that looks back. A meal that He has earnestly desired to eat. A meal that is centered on this sacrificial lamb. And yet, in every account of this Passover meal there are no detailed comments about this sacrificial lamb at all. Why? Because Jesus and the gospel writers want to emphasize something more important than a young dead sheep. They want to emphasize a different Passover lamb. Listen to 1 Corinthians 5:7

*For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*

Jesus is eating the Passover meal, He says, before He suffers. And He will suffer as our Passover lamb. Who died as a sacrifice leading to our salvation. A sacrifice that frees us from Satan's oppression and slavery. A sacrifice that tells us that God

rules, not the evil rulers of this world. As a sacrifice that proves that God's enemies will always be defeated in the end.

Jesus is determined to die after dinner. We've seen that this dinner is an old dinner that looks back. But let's also notice that this dinner is making a transition. This meal is also

[Subpoint 2] A new dinner looking forward

Look at vv. 17-20 with me

*And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

Something new is happening in this upper room. All over Jerusalem, at that moment, people were eating the same old Passover meal. But Jesus is leading His disciples to something new. He's making a vow as He looks forward. He is not going to eat this sort of meal again until God's Kingdom comes in its final fullness. And He says some audacious things. Strange things.

He says that two of the Passover meals' components- wine and bread have a deep and profound connection to Him. He says that the bread represents His body, but He says this after it is broken. And that this body is given "for" you. Nobody in the room thought that Jesus suddenly became an avatar and that the bread had magically become His body. So, our Lutheran friends about Jesus being in, with, and under the bread are making too much of these words. And our Roman Catholic friends about the bread becoming Jesus' body are very, very wrong. But this body was given "for/hyper" you. So, when we see that Jesus is determined to die after dinner. We see that this new dinner is looking forward to His death. And that this coming death is not just a bad break or a sad ending. It was for a purpose. Jesus looks at His disciples saying, "My death is for you. In your place." Do you read these words and feel Him looking at you and saying that to you?

And then He turns to this cup. And it's just an ordinary cup, with ordinary wine. So any effort to say that this magically became Jesus' blood, as our Roman Catholic

loved ones do, is not right. This wine represents something, though. It represents Jesus' blood. And that, in turn, represents a new covenant.

A covenant is a sort of binding agreement. Usually there was something written and there would be a sign given to show that the written agreement would be kept, and that the parties would be bound to it. So, in the Old Covenant, there was a law written on stone- the 10 Commandments. And the sign that this was binding on the people between God and Israel was that blood from an ox was cast, sprinkler-like on the people- Exodus 24:6. But the problem we see with the Old Covenant, is that people can't keep it! They break it. And that means curses and punishment are coming down on them. So we need a better covenant that secures only blessings.

This covenant language is important. It is critical to the main point of our sermon.

[Illustration] Imagine a billionaire has a will. Wills look forward to the future. She will leave everything to the people in her will. It is binding. The beneficiaries of the will may be fools. They may even commit crimes. But so long as they are in that will, they benefit from that binding agreement.

Conversely, a person could be a good person. They could work really hard. They can be the smartest, kindest people alive. But if that person's name is not in the will, they do not benefit.

[Gospel] The same goes for Jesus' New Covenant. This binding agreement. Jesus is going to die and sprinkle His people with His blood. He is going to be their Passover lamb. He is going to free His people in the pages to come. And Jesus is going to defeat death, be raised from the dead, ascend to God the Father's presence and He's going to send the Holy Spirit who will actually change people's hearts. So that they know the Lord. So that the New Covenant can't be broken. It's better. But you have to have be a recipient and participant in the covenant. To benefit. You must have your name in the will- so to speak. How does that happen?

You don't get in by being part of a family of believers or being an ethnic Jew- that was the Old Covenant. So, children, teenagers, college students, people raised in the church- listen. With the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit mysteriously convicts you that these things are true. And He, through the preaching of this good news

of Jesus eagerness to die for you, convinces you that this has been done for you. Jesus for your sins. And you believe it. You trust Jesus. Because you have a new heart. And you become a different sort of person. A person who wants to obey Jesus and turn from sin. If that seems to be happening to you, don't resist anymore. Let Jesus' blood bind you to Him. Believe that He has done all the work.

If you don't you must pay for your sins yourself. This means eternal Hell. Wrath. Suffering and sorrow.

Jesus was determined to die for you. He was determined to die after dinner. We also saw that some of this was determined by enemies. But that raises a question.

### **[Main Point 3] Determined, but who did this?**

In Luke's gospel, Jesus has announced that He must die. Additionally, He has told parables that imply that He must die. This is all determined. Luke is slowing us down in these last few chapters. He's spending a lot of time talking about the last days and hours before Jesus' death. But as we live in the moment of this text and we look backward to it's event in history, we still are forced to ask, "Who did this?" And there are two answers we'll find in Luke 22:1-23. First, notice

[Subpoint 1] Judas did this

We know this from the earlier verses that showed Judas to be an enemy, but let's also see v. 21

*But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.*

Jesus clearly places blame on Judas for betraying Him to His executioners. This had been determined, and it's obvious that Judas did this. And we saw in vv. 3-6 that Judas did this. And think about Judas as I read v. 23 right now...

*And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.*

Think of the lies Judas was living in that moment. Andrew or John or someone saying, "Judas, is it you?" And Judas answering, "No, it's not me. No, sir. Is it you? Maybe it's that guy over there." But Judas is in the process of doing this. Judas did this.



But Judas is not the only one we find in the text. As surprising as it might be for one of Jesus' most loyal 12 friends to bring Jesus toward death, there is Someone even more surprising. This death has been determined, but who did this? Not just Judas.

[Subpoint 2] God did this

With a completely different motive than Judas, we find that God did this. Let's read v. 22

*For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"*

The emphasis on this text. And all of Luke's gospel. And all of the New Testament. And all of the Bible. Is that God is sovereign and in control of all things. He is not to be blamed for evil. He is only good. But even evil actions are used by God to accomplish His purposes. To fulfill His predetermined plan. This is the beginning of a series of events that seem like Jesus is a victim. And He is a victim. But Jesus is not *merely* a victim. God's plan is the foundation for all of this.

In Isaiah 53 we read about Jesus as our substitute. He was pierced for our transgressions. Crushed for our iniquities. The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. But if you keep reading you get down to vv. 8

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?*

That sounds like Jesus being a victim. Oppression and Judgment.

But now v. 10, something of a surprise:

*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

The will of the LORD in the context of Isaiah 53 is what God has determined. It was the will of the LORD to crush Jesus. God did this. And Jesus knows that. He came knowing what was determined for Him. In fact, He came eagerly and willing

to fulfill the determined plan. Look at v. 19 again- His body was “given” for His people.

Judas did this as an act of greed and murder and betrayal. All evil. And Judas is rightfully held responsible for his evil actions. With no one to blame but himself. And God did this in an act of justice and mercy and love. All good. And God is free from the guilt of the evil actions of His creatures. So, all praise and glory goes to God. This is the theological principle of compatibilism. That God can be in control of every subatomic particle in the universe and that that is compatible with the lived experience of humans making choices that are never in violation of their own natures. Very mysterious, yes. But true. And all working for God’s glory.

[Conclusion] What sort of God is this? That He would send His Son for you. That the greatest axis of evil enemies can’t stop Jesus from dying for you. That He would use a meal instituted 15 centuries earlier was meant to point to a perfect and final sacrifice. That He would plan all of this to show forth His goodness and grace. And that this wouldn’t just be merely about objective historical fact- thought that is true. But that it would have relevance for you. That Jesus is determined to die for you.