

FALLING APART: LUKE 22

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In Luke 22, we see the culmination of the tension that has been building. Jesus has been welcomed into Jerusalem in triumph by the crowds and yet the religious leaders are plotting to kill him. Jesus has been warning the disciples of the impending crisis for quite some time, but they have not grasped the magnitude of what is to come.

Now, however, it is hitting home. How the disciples react is typical of how we react to crisis; what Jesus models something quite different. There is little doubt we are in crisis currently with Covid 19.

Peter reacts confidently, sure he can handle it. The crisis exposes his pride. We can react in a similar way, thinking we can do things in our own strength

Judas reacts with anger, as he never expected this kind of suffering. His own agenda is exposed. We too can turn away from God in crisis when we hit tough times.

The disciples start arguing among themselves, just after Jesus' profound words about the last supper. They turn against each other, wanting the top role. Their selfishness is exposed. In lockdown, we can project our anxiety onto others in anger and irritability.

In the garden, the disciples are so overcome that they fall asleep. They want to escape it all. That can also be our way of coping – we run to anything to distract us and fall asleep spiritually.

Jesus, in the midst of profound personal crisis, models something very different.

- He cries out to the Father, expressing his emotions and fears.
- He accepts God's plan as best, after much struggle.
- He reaches out to the disciples for help.
- He ministers to others, despite his own crisis.

After the anguish of the garden, he displays remarkable calm in the face of the false trials, betrayal and violence.

Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that we have a High priest who understands us and intercedes for us as we walk through crisis.

REFLECTION + DISCUSSION

Which of the four ways of dealing with crisis do you relate to most?

What was the result for the disciples in each instance?

What has been the result of your "default" setting in the past?

Can you identify why you react the way you do?

Which of the four ways Jesus dealt with this crisis are you least likely to do? Make to commitment this week to do this.

