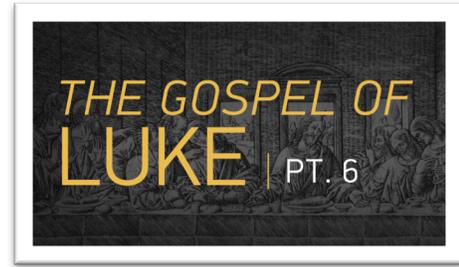


THE POWER OF DARKNESS

LUKE 22:47-53 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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I can identify “the power of darkness” around me. Darkness disguises itself as good (22:47-48), acts impulsively (22:49-50), explains away the miraculous (22:51), operates in the shadows (22:52-53a) and in order for the light to shine, darkness must have its day (22:53b).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do you think darkness has become symbolic of evil while light represents what is good?

The religious authorities used the cover of darkness to “legitimize” their false arrest of Jesus. What are some examples of evil things that are passed off as acceptable in our culture if they happen in the shadows?

Read John 8:12, Micah 6:8 and Philippians 4:8. How has a relationship with Jesus Christ affected your interaction with things that typically happen in the shadows? (Injustice, criminal activity, abuse of power, backroom dealing, etc.,)

When the disciples are confronted by the crowd, they ask Jesus if they should use the swords. Before Jesus answers, one disciple decides to act in a way that Jesus didn’t condone. What factors may have led that disciple to think he was doing something Jesus would approve of?

How do you feel about the pace of your life? How might the power of darkness be influencing you toward impulsive action instead of prayerful action?

Has your impulsive behaviour ever led to someone else's pain? How did Jesus help to make it right?

Think back to period of time when you were blinded by the power of darkness and not able to see Jesus as Lord. What led you to eventually see Jesus differently?

Who do you know that is influenced by the power of darkness? How could you lead them to see Jesus in a clearer way?