

ARE YOU THE SON OF GOD, THEN?

LUKE 22:54-71 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD

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Do you know and follow the one who suffered injustice (22:54a)? Do you know and acknowledge the one who offered grace (22:54b-62)? Do you know and embrace the one who bore the shame (22:63-65)? Do you know and believe in him who declared his divinity (22:66-71)?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In this passage we see our Lord being treated as a criminal at the hands of an unjust mob. The disciples withdrew from Jesus at this point, fearful of the repercussions that would come from being associated with him. Have negative views about Jesus caused you to withdraw at some point from following him? How so? What negative effects did you fear?

How do Jesus' words in Luke 6:22-23 and 12:4-12 and Paul's words in Philippians 3:7-10 give us a radically different spiritual focus when facing persecution and suffering?

Do you think you are prepared to follow Jesus if it means you will suffer because of him? How can you know whether you are ready? Has this ever happened in your life?

Look back at Peter's words in Luke 22:33 and compare that statement to his activity in 22:56-60. Why do you suppose Jesus wanted Peter to learn that following him requires much more than bold and brave declarations?

It is important to our understanding of God's grace that we catch this point: Jesus didn't need Peter to sacrifice his life, but Peter needed Jesus to sacrifice his. There was nothing Peter could do to help! Romans 5:6 says explains that we are "helpless" when it comes to saving ourselves from judgment and wrath for sin. Jesus does all the work for us.

Have you ever felt helpless like Peter surely did in the courtyard? How does the experience of being helpless assist us in further understanding our need for grace?

Following his denial, Peter experienced and responded to Jesus' "look" in Luke 22:61-62. What was Jesus communicating in that soul-exposing moment? How does their post-resurrection encounter in John 21:15-19 reveal Jesus' unmerited favour?

Have you ever felt as if the weakness of your conviction to embrace Jesus was exposed? What emotions did you experience at that time? Why did the Lord let you feel those things in your relationship with him?

In Luke 22:66-71, three specific terms are used of Jesus: "Christ," "Son of Man," and "Son of God." How does each title speak to his divinity? How do the elders' words indicate their recognition of his claim?

Tim Keller said, *"Either you have to 'kill' Jesus or you have to crown him, but the one thing you can't do is just say, 'What an interesting guy!' His claims don't allow that type of answer."* Why is the question of Jesus' identity such a dividing line in our culture today, just as it was then? Who do you say he is in relationship to you? Remind yourself of the incredible affirmations about Jesus in Colossians 1:15-20 and 2:9.