

Luke 22:1 ¶ Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

Luke 22:2 And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

I am already asking for God to give me understanding as I head into this section of scripture. When doing the journal on John, I tried to include information from the other gospels to give a fuller picture of Jesus last days and ran into several discrepancies that the skeptics like to jump on. I look at them as all minor issues probably attributed to language and/or translation and intended purpose of the author.

Luke tells us that it will soon be time to celebrate Passover. He then reiterates that the chief priests and scribes are trying to figure out how they can kill Jesus without getting themselves killed. He then makes a very telling statement—Satan enters Judas Iscariot. I believe this is a declaration of the true statement of Judas' heart toward Jesus; he didn't believe Him. This truth is affirmed by John.

John 6:64 "....For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him."

There is no question of Satan usurping the presence of the Holy Spirit, because the Lord did not give the Spirit to the disciples until after His resurrection.

*John 20:19–22 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. **And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side.** Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"***

Luke 22:4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Luke 22:5 And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

Luke 22:6 And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Satan leads Judas to make a deal with chief priests and other leaders to betray Jesus into their hands at a time and place that wouldn't be surrounded by the crowds. He made a deal which Matthew's record reveals was for payment of 30 pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:14–15 "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."

From that moment on Judas was on the lookout for the opportune time to make good on his deal. That Judas would accept a bribe for his services should not surprise us. John tells us that he was the treasurer for the group and a thief.

John 12:4–6 “Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”

It is a sad but very real truth that there are many who profess belief in Jesus today that are motivated by how they can make a profit off of true believers through deceit.

Luke 22:7 ¶ Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

Luke 22:8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

These verses bring up one of the most apparent contradictions between John’s and Luke’s accounts. John very clearly presents Jesus as our Passover lamb and describes this meal, more widely known as “The Lord’s Supper,” as occurring before Passover.

John 13:1–2 “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him....”

John further declares that Pilate delivered Jesus over to the people for crucifixion on the Preparation Day for Passover.

John 19:14 “Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!””

According to Josephus, the priests began slaying the paschal lambs at the temple at 3:00pm—the same time that Jesus, our Passover lamb, died on the cross. I have read many commentaries regarding whether the last supper was a Passover meal and regarding Jesus’ being in the tomb three days and three nights. I am not a scholar, but I do believe the Spirit is consistent in presenting the types of Christ in scripture. Christ was definitely our Passover lamb as declared by Paul...

1 Corinthians 5:7 “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:”

...therefore, I believe He was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover meal that would be held that evening (the Jews reckon a day from evening to evening). Beyond that I am not willing to argue. I also know that God doesn’t

contradict Himself, so I'm not worried about what looks like contradiction to me right now. He will make everything clear by and by.

I decided to do a bit more research and found a very good biblical explanation by Brian Huie rectifying the accounts at http://www.herealittletherealittle.net/index.cfm?page_name=Last-Supper-Passover-Meal. Significant points made in that article follow.

Matthew says it was "the first of Unleavened Bread." On the surface, this appears to contradict John's account, which plainly states that the "last supper" occurred before the Feast of Passover. However, Mark and Luke add an additional detail that helps clarify the time. Mark says it was "the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover"; Luke states it was "the day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover must be killed."

The Bible tells us in Exodus 12:6 that the Passover lambs were to be killed "between the evenings" on Nisan 14. The Jews have traditionally interpreted "between the evenings" to mean "in the afternoon."

When the disciples questioned Yeshua about where they were going to eat the Passover meal the next night, they still did not fully understand that he would be **dead** then! The Messiah would not be able to eat the Passover lamb because he was destined to be sacrificed as **our** Passover (I Cor. 5:7). But instead of explaining to them **then** that he would be in the grave when the time came to eat the Passover lamb, he simply told his disciples **where** to prepare to eat the Passover meal. After Peter and John had de-leavened the room and made ready for the upcoming feast, Yeshua used their final meal together on the night of the 14th to instruct his disciples one last time before his death.

In the article "The Lord's Supper," the *New Bible Dictionary* says that ". . . Lk. 22:15 may be read as an unfulfilled wish" (p. 707). Christ truly longed to eat that coming Passover with his disciples, but his desire could not be realized! It was forbidden because it would have destroyed the plan of God, since Christ was destined to be sacrificed as our Passover lamb on the afternoon **before** the Passover meal."

Luke 22:9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?

Luke 22:10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

Luke 22:11 And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

Luke 22:12 And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

Luke 22:13 And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

This section builds on what we learned from the previous section. The disciples knew that they needed to prepare for Passover, e.g., getting rid of all leaven. Jesus then tells them how to identify where they could make preparation. Maybe He had made a reservation with the man, but His directions were obviously so specific as to be prophetic. John tells us that the man Jesus possessed the fullness of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

John 3:34–35 “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.”

Luke 22:14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

Luke 22:15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

Luke 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

When the time for dinner came, Jesus sat down with His twelve apostles and stated His desire to enjoy the Passover with them but that He would “not yet” (from the Greek) do so until He could do so with them in His kingdom. In light of what we have learned, I think the following translations state it best:

Luke 22:15–16 “And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: for I say unto you, I shall not eat it, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ASV

Luke 22:15–16 “He said to them, “I have eagerly desired 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.”” NRSV

Luke 22:15–16 “And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired 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.”” ESVS

Luke 22:17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

Luke 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Thus begins the last supper Jesus takes with His disciples. As they take of the “fruit of the vine,” Jesus tells them to all take a portion of it and know that He will not drink of this wine until the kingdom of God is established on earth.

Jesus then gave thanks for the bread and broke it into pieces that He shared with each apostle. He explained that this broken bread represented His body which would be broken for them. He identified the action as a “remembrance” of Him. In other words, Jesus looked on His death as done; His mindset was firm; God’s will would be done.

Jesus also declared as they drank the cup after their supper that it represented the new covenant that would be established through His shed blood—blood that was shed for their redemption.

I think it is important to note that Jesus declared that He is giving His body and shedding His blood willingly for His disciples (and all others who would place their faith in Him accepting His free gift of salvation).

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Luke 22:21 ¶ But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.

Luke 22:22 And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

Luke 22:23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

Again there is a minor discrepancy in the gospel accounts. Luke’s account seems to agree with John’s. Again, this discrepancy does not bother me.

All accounts agree that Jesus announced that one who would betray Him was in their midst. Luke is intent on emphasizing that this is according to God’s plan, but also declares that this does not excuse the betrayer. The betrayer is fulfilling God’s will, but He is also acting according to His own will and purposes. This is just another of the hundreds of examples in scripture of God’s foreknowledge being woven into His plan that was in place before creation.

“woe unto the man” – Mark not only affirms the truth that the betrayer would be fulfilling prophecy, but that it would have been better for that man had he never been born. This confirms in my mind that though Judas would later try to return his bribe money, he never truly repented of his sin or Jesus would never have said this.

Mark 14:21 “The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.”

Naturally, the disciples began to try to figure out which one among them would possibly do such a thing.

Luke 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Luke 22:26 But ye *shall not be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

Luke 22:27 For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is not he that sitteth at meat?* but I am among you as he that serveth.

It seems that the discussion to determine who could possibly be the one who would betray Jesus evolved into an argument as to who was the greatest among them. After listening to them argue for a while, the Lord decides to take advantage of the opportunity for teaching another spiritual lesson. Jesus basically told them that greatness is not measured in the way the world measures it. The kings of the Gentiles exercise great authority and bask in the honor they are shown in light of that authority. You (the disciples), however, have a King (Me/Jesus) who shows His greatness by humbling Himself as a servant. I want you to follow My example. He who is able to truly humble himself in service to one another in accordance with My will shows himself to be greater.

John's account tells us that this teaching was supported by example when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples.

Luke 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Luke 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

Luke 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

In this section of verses the Lord commends His disciples for sticking with Him through all the trials and troubles He faced during His ministry. I was reminded of a verse in Hebrews as I read this verse.

Hebrews 4:14–15 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

The faithfulness of the disciples will result in special recognition and positions of authority in His kingdom. They will, in fact, be given thrones to serve as judges over the twelve tribes of Israel. They will also be privileged to eat and drink at the King's table. This is a position of honor that is reserved for those closest to the King and in whom the King delights.

I am reminded from my study of Revelation that the disciples will receive yet another honor; their names will grace the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

John tells us that this conversation between Jesus and Peter took place after Judas was gone and Jesus had told the remaining disciples that He was going somewhere they could not go. Peter wanted to know why he couldn't go with Him.

It was in response to that statement that Jesus told Peter that he would betray Him. He told him that Satan had asked for the opportunity to test his faith. Wheat is sifted to separate the usable part from the unusable part. One can't help but think of Job at this point. Evidently, that permission had been granted.

Jesus assures Peter that He had prayed for him not to lose faith. He tells Peter that when he emerged from his trial repentant and stronger in faith, he was to strengthen the others. This statement reminded me of something Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 1:3–6 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

I believe that is one of the Lord's intended purposes for any trial He allows in our lives—for our faith to be strengthened, and that we in turn strengthen others through what we have learned by experience.

This statement also affirms that Jesus' prayer was answered even though at first it may seem it had not been. The fact that Peter repented gave evidence that his faith was sincere however weak it may have been at the time. I believe it was also the foundational process that eventually resulted in the bold man of faith in evidence at Pentecost.

Again I am reminded of truth from the book of Hebrews; Jesus prays for us just as surely as He prayed for Peter.

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore He [Jesus] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Luke 22:33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

Luke 22:34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Peter declared that he was ready to go with Jesus even if it meant going to prison or to death. The Lord then tells Peter that before the rooster crows to announce the dawn of a new day, he will deny three times that he even knows Jesus.

Luke 22:35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

Luke 22:36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Luke 22:37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

Luke 22:38 And they said, Lord, behold, here *are* two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

Still in context of the trials that were in front of them, Jesus reminds them of when He sent them out two by two taking nothing with them. At that time they had been well received and experienced great success and came back with a good report. The time had now come that instead of a good experience, they were going to face bad times and would need all the help they could muster. Everything that had been prophesied concerning the suffering Messiah was to find fulfillment in Jesus, and He quotes from Isaiah.

*Isaiah 53:12 "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: **and he was numbered with the transgressors**; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."*

The disciples were obviously just hearing what Jesus said without understanding what He meant. He is telling them that they are about to face hard times. They heard—You need to get a sword; so they respond that they have two already. Jesus answers that they have enough, because He doesn't intend them to use swords to prevent what is coming. He proves that by rebuking Peter when he pulls out his sword for that very purpose when the soldiers come to arrest Jesus. His point is that they need to prepare themselves to endure great hardship and persecution.

Luke 22:39 ¶ And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**Luke 22:45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,
Luke 22:46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.**

Luke's record now jumps directly to Jesus time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:36 "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."

As the Lord prayerfully prepares to face His trial, He admonishes the disciples also to pray that they would not fall to temptation. He then separates Himself from them to talk to His Father. I think it is at this point that Jesus seems most vulnerable. He wants to be obedient to His Father, but He expresses His desire for the Father to intervene and do things differently if possible. Even as He prays that prayer, He yields Himself to the will of the Father. Not surprisingly, the Father sent an angel to strengthen His beloved Son. How could an angel strengthen Him? After looking at the Greek, it seems that the angel was able to give Jesus something that strengthened Him physically in light of what He was about to endure.

Jesus continued to pray so intensely and with such great passion that He began sweating drops of blood. Luke, the physician, makes a point of the fact that Jesus was in agony—great anguish, laboring fervently. Finally, His struggle ended and He rose up from prayer to find His disciples sound asleep. The word used implies that they fell asleep exhausted from grieving. Was it because they were finally beginning to understand that Jesus was going to die? Was it just great sorrow at seeing the Lord in such agony?

Jesus then wakes them up and again encourages them to engage in prayer to be able to endure the trial ahead of them.

Luke 22:47 ¶ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

Luke 22:48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

While He was still speaking, Judas shows up leading a crowd of people. He walked over to Jesus to kiss Him (a common greeting among friends). Jesus lets him know that He knows what is happening and asks Judas why he betrays "the Son of Man" with a kiss. (Obviously, because He did not believe Him to be the Son of Man.)

Luke 22:49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

Luke 22:50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

Luke 22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

The disciples finally realized what was happening and (to their credit) they were prepared to fight in spite of the odds. The problem is that they still did not understand that this was all part of God's plan, so to fight was to go against God's will. One of them (John tells us it was Peter) actually cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest, but Jesus rebuked him and healed the man's ear.

Luke 22:52 Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves?

Luke 22:53 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Jesus addresses the chief priests, the soldiers that made up the temple guard and other elders by asking why they were armed like they were out to capture a thief, a dangerous criminal. He pointed out that He had been in the temple every day, but they had not tried to arrest Him then. Then He goes on to answer His own question; I liked the way the NLT phrased it, "But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns." (I would say, "is allowed to reign.")

Luke 22:54 ¶ Then took they him, and led *him*, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

Luke 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

Luke 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

Luke 22:57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

Luke 22:58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

Luke 22:59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this *fellow* also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

Luke 22:60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

Luke 22:61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Luke 22:62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

In this section of verses Luke records the account of Peter's denials. After Jesus was arrested, He was taken to the high priest's house. Peter followed, but at quite a distance. John affirms that it was cold outside, so a fire was built in the surrounding courtyard where many sat down to wait and see what would happen. Peter joined the group around the fire. One girl began to look at Peter more closely and suddenly pointed Peter out as one of Jesus' companions. Peter flatly denied knowing Jesus (1st denial). A little later another person identified him as one of Jesus' followers; Peter denied it (2nd). About an hour later another

person (John identifies him as related to the man whose ear Peter had cut off.) confidently identified Peter as one of Jesus' followers (John adds that he says he saw Peter in the garden.) and even noted that He was Galilaean in support of his statement (Matthews tells us that his accent was distinct.). Once again, Peter denied the truth (3rd). Both Matthew and Mark tell us that Peter cursed and swore in answer to this last accusation.

While Peter was yet speaking, the rooster crowed. At that moment Jesus turned and looked at Peter, and he immediately remembered what Jesus had told him. I think that look was full of love and compassion—not condemnation. Peter was ashamed and heartbroken once he realized the awful truth of what he'd done. He wept bitterly.

Peter's response in a situation in which he felt his life might be in danger certainly gives one food for thought. Could I stand firm in my faith at such a time; I pray often that if that time ever comes, the Lord would strengthen me as well as those I love who love Jesus to do just that to His honor and glory.

Chuck Smith made a valid observation (in my words). Peter chose to follow at a distance. Any time we try to follow Jesus at a distance without total commitment, we are asking for trouble. Peter wasn't just at a distance; he was warming himself at the enemy's fire.

**Luke 22:63 ¶ And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote *him*.
Luke 22:64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?
Luke 22:65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.**

Those that held Jesus under arrest mocked Him as they hit Him. They blindfolded Him and hit Him on the face, and then they challenged Him to prove He was a prophet and tell them who hit Him. When He did not answer them, they continued to speak evil things against Him. This too was in fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth...."

**Luke 22:66 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,
Luke 22:67 Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:
Luke 22:68 And if I also ask *you*, ye will not answer me, nor let *me* go.
Luke 22:69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.
Luke 22:70 Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.
Luke 22:71 And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.**

Mark's account gives a more detailed account of Jesus' ordeal before being brought before the council. Luke goes directly to the decisive judgment.

At dawn the elders, chief priests and scribes (those that comprised the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court) brought Jesus before their council demanding that He testify against Himself. They ask Him if He is the Christ, the Messiah. He truthfully answers that they wouldn't believe Him if He said He was, neither would they let Him go in light of His answer. Jesus did not stop there—He answered their question by declaring that He would soon be sitting at the right hand of God's authority. They changed their question in light of that answer. They asked Him point blank if He was the Son of God. Basically Jesus says—That is who you are accusing me to be. They then determined that His answer was sufficient to take him to the authorities.