

Luke
See Jesus
The Attack of Our Enemy
Luke 22:31-34

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Luke 22:31-34 gives us some of the last things Jesus wants us to know.

I. Your Soul Is In Danger

Luke 22:31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat...”

That should have sent a tremor down Peter’s spine and it should have sent one down yours as well because the most dangerous thing you could do is wake up every day as if you are not at risk, not in danger, and don’t have a vicious, powerful enemy who’s out to destroy you.

He’s looking at Peter, but He’s talking to every disciple, including every one of us because the word “you” is in the plural.

A. Never Forget That Satan Is Furious And Has A Lot Of Power Right Now

- **Job 1 & 2** show us that he can afflict us with sickness, devastate our finances, and wreak havoc on our families.
- **John 8:44** - Jesus says that he is a “murderer” and a “liar.”
- **John 16:11** - Jesus calls him the “ruler” of this world.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** - Paul calls him the “god of this age” and says he “blinds the minds of unbelievers.”
- **2 Timothy 2:26** - Paul says that he can “trap” us and take “people captive to do his will.”
- **1 Peter 5:8** - Peter warns us that he goes around “like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- **Revelation 12:17** says that he is “furious” and tries to “make war” with anyone who “keeps the commandments of God.”

You don’t want to wake up every day as if you have no enemy. That would be a foolish, self-destructive, and vulnerable way to live because there is a war, you have an enemy, and he is out to destroy you.

B. Always Remember That His Power Is Limited And Permitted By A Sovereign God Who’s Ultimately In Control

There are not two powers in this universe with equal measures of authority. Anything that Satan does has to be permitted by Almighty God and ultimately falls under His sovereign purposes that are moving towards His perfect plan.

Luke 22:31 “... Satan demanded to have you...”

In the Greek language the word “demand” is actually the word “ask.”
Be encouraged that it absolutely is an “ask” and he has to get permission.

It's the same thing that you see in the book of Job where Satan had to get permission to touch Job or anything that he had.

Job 1:9-12 “Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have You not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.’ ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”

Job 2:4-7 “Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out Your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse You to Your face.’ ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.’ ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores...”

God limits, orders, and controls all things for His glory and our good. When you believe that and you see it for yourself in Scripture, it makes all the difference when you're in the furnace of affliction.

II. Your Faith Will Be Shaken

Luke 22:31 “...Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat...”

Nowhere in the Bible does it say we won't be stretched, tossed, buffeted and sifted. None of those words sound like fun, but they do sound like what the Bible tells us we should expect to be happening to us.

Sifting wheat involved a pitch fork and being tossed in the air over and over. That's how you separated the wheat from the chaff.

That's what life will feel like when you come to Jesus because you have an enemy that wants to crush you and shake you loose from trusting Him. But you also have a Savior who will not let you go!

III. Your Savior Will Be Faithful

Luke 22:32 “But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.”

That's one of the most glorious statements in all the Bible! Jesus is praying for you! In fact, the original language makes the “I” emphatic!

Jesus is praying for you by name, because right there in **v. 32** He goes from using the plural “you” to a singular “you.”

When Jesus prays, God the Father answers every time, all the time because Jesus never prays apart from God's will! He has the mind of God and so He prays the right things, in the right ways, at the right time, all the time.

Luke 22:32 “... and when you have turned again...”

Jesus knows that Peter is going to deny Him three times, but because He prayed, he's going to repent with tears and come back to give his life for the cause of Christ and the Church.

It's the same thing Jesus was talking about in **John 10**.

John 10:28-30 "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

IV. Your Life Will Be Fruitful

A life that has been shaken and tossed about, even with multiple failures, can be one of the most fruitful lives for the glory of God!

Peter failed miserably, but Jesus prayed for him and used him incredibly!

Luke 22:32 "...And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

He uses people that have been broken, sifted, shaken, and tossed about to the point that they know they desperately need Him and have no power of their own.