

DEVICES OF SATAN: Fear Text: Luke 22:31-34 *Bill Turner*

Seek Strength in the Lord rather than Our Own Self-Confidence

Introduction:

1. **I Have some great news this morning! (I haven't even told Lisa yet!)**
 - a. I got a phone call—They've been trying to reach me about my cars extended warranty—well they finally Did!
 - b. Now I have a chance to go on a Marriott's Cruise, paid for by Publishers Clearing House,
 - c. with a Nigerian Prince who has lots of money, and I'm descended from some royalty so I have some \$ out there somewhere waiting for me.
 - d. And I Don't Have to Pay for Any of it! (Except some fees deducted from my Checking Acct)
 2. **We have all been manipulated by someone at sometime in our life...**
 - a. And It Helps to Figure Out How and Why so We Don't Fall For That Manipulation Again!
 3. **Satan is a Master Manipulator, and we are examining how he manipulates us—
—in order to understand how to avoid his schemes...**
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I. THE DEVISE: FEAR

A. THE TARGET: The Emotions (Luke 22:31–34)

1. **We know Peter had a Courage...**
 - a) None of the Other Disciples asked to Walk on Water—Peter Did
 - b) None of the Other Disciples Declared Jesus Deity First—It was Peter
 - c) None of the Other Disciples Defended Jesus with a Sword—Peter Did
 - d) None of the Other Disciples Secretly followed Jesus Into the Courtyard of the High Priest after His arrest, except two—of which Peter was one.
2. **But Sometimes Our Strength—Can Actually Be Our Weakness...**
 - a) After Peter Declared Jesus was the Messiah the Son of God, Jesus told the Disciples He Would Be Rejected and Killed in Jerusalem...
 - b) Peter Confronted Jesus and began Rebuking Jesus! NO this will not happen to you!
 - c) None of the Other Disciples Were Rebuked by Jesus as Harshly as Peter Was

(Matthew 16:23) ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
3. **Peter had confidence—but it was more of a self-confidence...**
 - a) Although Jesus Warned the Disciples Repeatedly of the Storm About to Hit
 - b) How they Would Strike the Shepherd and the Sheep will be scattered
 - c) The Disciples are to busy arguing over who would be greatest! (Luke 22:21–24)
4. **But as Jesus is Warning, Peter is Boasting! (Luke 22:31–34)**
 - a) **"Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."**

Did Peter Brazenly Lie to Jesus?

 - b) No, Peter did not consciously lie here—he was oblivious to the Invisible War
 - c) Unaware of the spiritual battle that Jesus could see.

- d) Peter just spoke as he felt at the moment—at the moment he felt brave.
- e) Relying on how you feel at the moment is not a stable foundation.
- f) He felt brave at the moment, but within hours a lowly servant girl caused him to deny that he even knew Jesus.

B. THE TACTIC: A Crisis of Fear

1. Satan has asked to ‘sift’ Peter and the disciples like wheat...

- a) The greek word for ‘you’ is plural: This Crisis would fall on all the disciples this night
- b) But then Jesus is also specifically speaking to Peter...
- c) It is Peter who Boasted that He Would Go to Prison and Even Die for the Lord
- d) But Jesus Knew Peter Better Than Peter Knew Himself! **(Matthew 26:31-35)**

2. What does it mean, ‘to sift like wheat’?

- a) To Sift is to shake violently in order to separate what is desirable from undesirable
- b) This is how wheat is separated from the chaff.
- c) Sifting like Wheat is a metaphor for Judgement
- d) Satan wants to prove that at least some of the disciples will fail under severe testing

3. This is what happened the very Night Jesus spoke these words...

- a) An Armed Mob with swords and torches arrest Jesus—and Judas leads the way.
- b) The Arrest of Jesus makes the Disciples Criminal Fugitives:
Not just to the Temple Guard but as Enemies of the State to Rome.
- c) This Was a Crisis of Fear...

4.

C. THE INTENT: To Deny the Lord

1. This is what Peter Did—He Abandoned & Denied the Lord **(Luke 22:54–60)**

- a) In a Crisis of Fear—Satan Sifted Peter Like Wheat —Peter Failed the Test
- b) He chose Self-Protection Over Serving the Lord, Self-will over God’s will

2. This is what Satan wants for all of us to do—to Deny the Lord

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. **(Matthew 10:32–33)**

3. Satan tricks us into condemning ourselves with the only thing that can separate us from God—Our Own Sin

D. THE RESULT: Peter Denied the Lord

1. Not Only Did Peter Deny the Lord—the Shame and Guilt was crushing

- a) Something Peter probably never forgot—the look on Jesus face **(v.60-62)**

But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So Peter went out and wept bitterly. **(Lk. 22:61-62)**

2. To Sift like Wheat is to Shake Violently to cause a separation to occur

- a) Peter Was So Shaken by This Event—That He Denied Jesus 3x and Wept Bitterly
- b) There are times when something is so shaken it breaks

- c) Like a Violent Shaking of a Plan or Helicopter or Motorcycle at speed
There comes a point where there is no recovery

3. Was Jesus Prayer Answered? He prayed for Peter's Faith...

- a) Unlike Judas, the Eleven Remaining Disciples did not deliberately deny Jesus—this was not premeditated like Judas.
 - b) Yes they failed this Faith Crisis, but their Faith did Not Fail Completely
 - c) As Jesus said, *'When You Return to Me...'*
—He Knew They Would Return, Repent and Recover
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II. THE DEFENSE: FAITH

A. FAITH TO PRAY (v.31-32a)

1. In the Garden When Jesus was Praying—Peter was sleeping!
 - a) Jesus told them stay awake and pray that so they wouldn't enter into temptation!
 - b) They Needed God's Help Through Prayer
2. Now When Jesus is Warning—Peter is Boasting! (v.33-34)
 - a) Peter thought he was prepared for this Crisis but he wasn't
 - b) Peter Thought This Was a Flesh-and-Blood Conflict—but it Isn't
 - c) Peter was depending on his own Courage, Own Strength and Even a Sword.
 - d) But These Are Insufficient Weapons in the Spiritual War!
3. If We Rely On Our Own Strength and Self-Confidence—We Won't Go to God in Prayer and Ask for the Super-Natural Strength We Need! (Matt 26:40–41)
 - a) Faith is so important and precious to God that Jesus prayed for it! (v.32)
 - b) What a Beautiful Thought That Jesus Wants You To Succeed!
 - c) He Lives to Make Intercession for You! (Heb 7:25) He Wants to Help You!

B. FAITH TO REPENT (v.31-32b)

1. Jesus Knew...
 - a) That Peter would deny Him and the Disciples Would Scatter
 - b) Jesus knew His warning would go unheeded
 - c) Jesus knew this in advance, even quoting the scripture in which it was prophesied!
(Mt 26:31, 56) quoting Zechariah 13:7
2. But Jesus Also Knew Peter Would Repent and Return
 - a) The Greek Word here means repent—To Turn Around, to Turn Back
"So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers." (NLT)
3. This is Key Because Without Repentance we are still in the jaws of the lion!
 - a) "Sin has four characteristics: self-sufficiency instead of faith; self-will instead of submission; self-seeking instead of benevolence; self-righteousness instead of humility." (E. Paul Hovey)
 - b) Without Repenting and Returning to Christ We're Still Trying to Do Things Our Way!
 - c) We Need the Faith to Repent in order to be set free from the slavery of sin and guilt

C. FAITH TO SEEK FORGIVENESS (v.31-32b)

- 1. When We Return to Jesus and Repent — Jesus Forgives! (Acts 2:38)**
 - a) Only In Christ Do We Have access to Grace, the forgiveness of sins
 - b) Only in Christ is there No Condemnation
 - c) Only in Christ Are We Set Free from Satan, Sin and Slavery
- 2. It Takes Faith to Admit We Cannot Save Ourselves without Obeying Christ**
 - a) This is Why the Way of Life is So Narrow and the Path of Destruction So Large
 - b) People Don't Want to Admit That Their Own Way Won't Work!
 - c) It Takes Faith to Follow the Narrow Way That Leads to Life
- 3. At Least When Peter Failed—He Always Turned Back to Follow the Lord**

D. FAITH TO ENCOURAGE (v.31-32c)

- 1. Faith is So Important to God that Jesus Prays for their Faith..
and wants Peter to Encourage the Faith of the Others Who Failed.**
 - a) All the Disciples had forsaken Jesus this night...
 - b) and They Would All Need Encouragement to be Faithful in the Future
 - c) But Peter Dedicates the Rest of His Life to Encouraging the Brethren
- 2. We've All Been Through Our Own Faith Crisis'—Our Own Storms of Life**
 - a) And Now It's Time We Encourage One Another in the Faith!
 - b) Just Like Jesus Told Peter to Do!
 - c) "when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." (v32)
- 3. But You Can Encourage One Another...**
 - With Your Presence—By Worshipping God Together!
 - Encourage One Another With the Truth!
 - God is in Control! There is no scenario in which He does not win!
 - We Are Saved by Grace!
 - We Have a Father in Heaven Who Loves Us!
 - And a Savior Who Died for Us!
 - And His Holy Spirit who Strengthen Us!
- 4. Satan Wants You to be Shaken by a Faith Crisis...**
 - a) He Wants to Sift You Like Wheat...
 - b) To Shake You Violently to Separate You From Jesus who loves you

Strengthen One Another With FAITH! HOPE! and LOVE!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Do You Rely on the Strength of the Lord? Or Your Own Self-Confidence?**
- 2. If You've Denied Jesus in any way—Return to Him**
- 3. and Strengthen Your Brethren (v.31-32)**