

Luke 22: 19 - 34

And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. 21 "But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. 22 "For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" 23 And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing. 24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called `Benefactors.' 26 "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. 27 "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. 28 "You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; 29 and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" 34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

Jesus Says something very dramatic to Peter in these verses:

Satan has demanded permission! Greek = exaiteomai to demand for one's self.

Why would God say yes to any demand of Satan? Because He LOVES us?

What is Satan demanding for himself?

to sift **you** like wheat! What exactly does this mean? You = humas/**you all plural**

SIFT = siniazo - to shake or sift as through a sieve to strain out the bad to be seen

Notice what had just happened:

23 And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing (betray Jesus). 24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

WHEN does God give Satan the permission he desires to “sift” each one of us?

WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES AS DESERVING OF GOD'S GIFTS.

How did Peter see himself as Jesus' follower?

33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"

WHY did Peter think that Jesus had appointed him as “first apostle” with the keys of the kingdom? **Because of his dedication and selfless service to God's Savior!** I deserve it!

WHY were they all disputing about who was to be regarded as the greatest?

Because of their dedication and selfless service to God's Savior! I deserve it!! ***Jesus' response?***

25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' 26 "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.

Since Jesus explained what to do, and since they were all dedicated & committed to Jesus, WHY did God give Satan permission to sift them all like wheat?

This is explained by Jesus using Peter's ORIGINAL NAME TWICE, Simon, Simon.

Simon = to have heard / to have listened

WHEN God's people see themselves as “good people”.

WHEN God's people dispute about others being “good enough”

WHEN God's people trust in their faith & their commitment to God as **unshakable.**

God tells Satan: “Shake them. Sift them like wheat.” **WHY?**

When a Christian sees themselves as “good” & others as “bad” and their service to God as showing their “strength of character”, **WHO ARE THEY LISTENING TO???**

Who has they heard and believed? The Spirit of God? Or the spirits from Satan?

The sifting of Peter consisted of the situation that moved him to deny even knowing Jesus.

What is the sifting God allows? To allow Satan to show you that ALL THE LIES he and his evil spirits have told you about yourself are just that: **LIES!** (Did Satan enjoy Peter's tears?)

WHAT DID JESUS DO after the resurrection concerning Peter?

Mark 16: 6 And (*the angel*) said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, **tell His disciples and Peter**

1 Cor. 15: 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to **Cephas**, then to the twelve.

GOD TAKES SPECIAL EFFORT to let Peter know that all that he has been promised is STILL BEING OFFERED, just will you listen to God's Spirit now and turn away from Satan's spirits. Did Peter always listen to God's voice after being sifted by the Devil?

Galatians 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

IS THIS BECAUSE PETER WAS BASICALLY A BAD PERSON?

DID SAUL PERSECUTE THE CHURCH BECAUSE HE WAS A BAD PERSON?
WHEN HE BECAME PAUL, DID HE CHANGE INTO A GOOD PERSON?
WAS THE CHURCH OF CORINTH SO BAD BECAUSE IT WAS FULL OF BAD PEOPLE?
WAS PAUL TRYING TO CHANGE THEM INTO GOOD PEOPLE?

Did you USED TO do the things you did because you were a BAD PERSON, but now you are a Christian & a GOOD PERSON?

IS ANYONE actually born as a good person or bad person?

WASN'T JESUS BORN AS A GOOD PERSON and example to us?

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

Since every person is born neither GOOD nor BAD, what makes all the difference?

WHO YOU LISTEN TO! (*My people do not know My voice!*) *kids getting in trouble?*

Why is so easy for Satan's spirits to take your ear and tell you lies that you believe?

They are pleasing lies that we ALL want to be true!

PETER? "You are worthy to lead!" Once believed, we cannot see ourselves anymore!

Think of all who teach given a "stricter judgment." (*they should be like me!*)

SAUL? "You are worthy to Love!" Once believed, we cannot see others anymore!

WHY does Christ say, "LOVE & forgive your worst enemy?" (*they're not worthy*)

What happened to BOTH of these people?

They were sifted, shaken & broken down utterly so they could see the Truth.

Denied & wept bitterly - confronted to his face = who was he listening to?

Knocked down & humbled - given a thorn in his flesh = who was he listening to?

Is Satan shouting YOUR NAME & begging God to sift, shake & reduce you to bitter tears of helpless frustration hopeless despair? Every day! When will God say "Yes"?

IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHO YOU CHOOSE TO LISTEN TO!!

All the reasons & justifications on why you do not HAVE TO be here tonight.

WHO are you listening to? WHO would you be listening to if you came here?

ALL the reasons & justifications on why you JUST CAN'T do what you said you would.

WHO are you listening to. WHO tells you to stop, turn around & keep your word?

All the reasons & justifications on why you DON'T HAVE TIME to do what you should.

WHO are you listening to? WHO tells you give your time away to others freely?

Who are you listening to when:

You don't pick up the phone after checking caller ID? You hide what your doing from your wife or your kids? You repeat the story you said you would not repeat? You go ahead, because it is easier to get forgiveness than permission? You smile when someone gets what is coming to them? You trust what you feel in your heart to be true? You're not a BAD person & it would be unfair for God to send you to hell. My church is just as good as anyone else's church! You are a spiritual person and do not need an organized church to worship God.

You're confident you KNOW what Scripture says, no need to study or question your own beliefs!

You're confident others do not KNOW what Scriptures says and MOCK their beliefs!

You trust your own unshakable faith to be the power of God's salvation!

You trust your own consistent service to be the source of God's blessings!

You are justified in being angry when others point out the Truth about you, hypocrites!

Will you LISTEN to God's voice and be humbled? Or to Satan's voice & be humiliated?

Jeremiah 11:7 `For I solemnly warned your fathers in the day that I brought them up from the land of Egypt, even to this day, warning persistently, saying, "Listen to My voice."